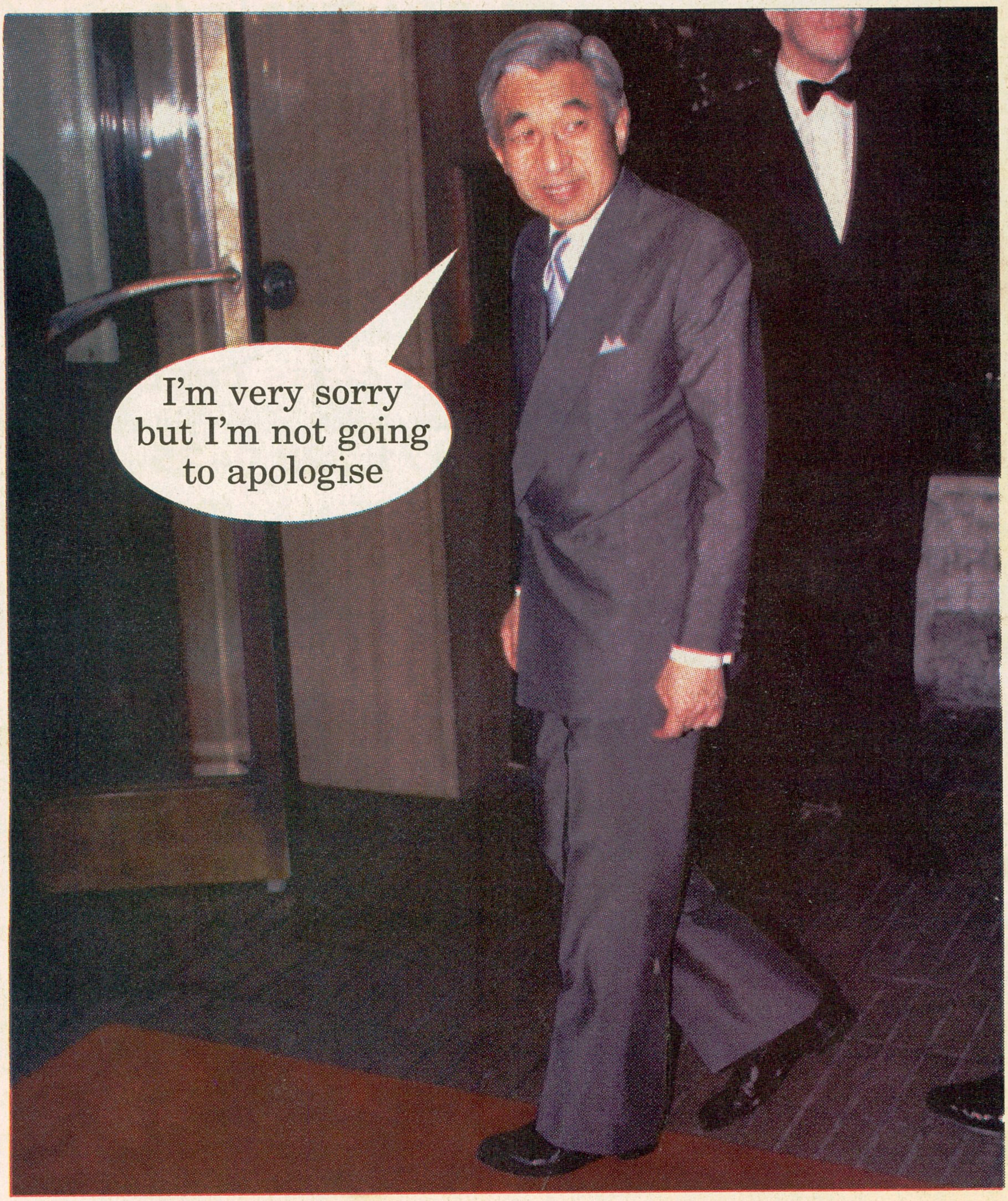
No. 951
Friday
29 May '98

PRIVATE EYE

£1

AKIHITO FLIES IN



Nice Nip in the Air

PRIVATE EYE

8 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD SUBSCRIBE TO PRIVATE EYE

1] It's a bargain at ***only £17***

2] **NOW** you are saving **£9.00** on the news stand price

3] Subscribers' magazines are the first copies printed

4] They are sent off on Tuesday
by 1st class post

5] It's so easy to subscribe — just a phone call will do. Dial **0171 228 0425** giving us your credit card details and we'll do the rest

6] It's a **GREAT MAGAZINE**

7] Er. . .

8] That's it *(that's enough reasons — Ed.)*

SUBSCRIBE!

ALTERNATIVELY USE THIS ORDER FORM

To: **Private Eye Subscriptions**, Mortimer House, 230/ 236 Lavender Hill, London SW11 1LE.
I enclose £17* (cheques payable to Private Eye).

Name of NEW SUBSCRIBER .....

Address .....

..... (please print & use the postcode)

or Debit my ACCESS/VISA Number ..... Expiry date .....

Name of CARDHOLDER (if different) .....

Address .....

..... (please print & use the postcode)

*UK rate, for overseas rates see page 5

***The rate of 7% gross p.a. is based on savings of £50,000 or more in our Direct Interest Savings Account. Gross: The rate before deduction of tax applied to interest on savings. The minimum deposit is £1,000. The interest is calculated daily and paid quarterly. One penalty free withdrawal per calendar month. Subsequent withdrawals within the same calendar month will be subject to a small charge of £0.50 per £100 (or part withdrawn) subject to a minimum charge of £15.**

Enquirers must be aged 18 or over. In order to safeguard our customers, certain transactions may require written confirmation. First Direct reserves the right to decline to open an account for you. First Direct credit facilities are subject to status. For written details of our services write to First Direct, Freepost, Leeds LS98 2RF. First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc. To maintain a quality service, calls may be monitored and/or recorded. First Direct PC Banking is only available to First Direct Cheque Account or High Interest Savings Account customers. **LLOYDS**. The costs comprise fees of £8 per month. **BARCLAYS**. The costs comprise fees of £5 per month. **NAT WEST**. The costs comprise fees of £5 per month. **First Direct** variable interest rate for overdrafts of £250 is 12.6% **EAR**. All information based on authorised overdrafts of £250 for 6 days or more per month. All rates and fees correct as at 18 May 1998 but may vary in the future.

Member HSBC *Group*

first direct

...Savings...up to 7% gross p.a. ...free access...once a month...*

you don't want to pay...

...so there's no need to. At First Direct, the UK's leading 24 hour telephone bank, everyday transactions are free, even if you're overdrawn. We also give you a £250 overdraft facility, free of fees, as we appreciate from time to time you may need some flexibility.

you don't want a closed bank...

...so we've never closed. We are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Bank with us from anywhere in the UK at anytime for the cost of a local call.

you don't want hassle getting cash...

...so we give you the First Direct Card. This allows you to withdraw up to £500 a day from more than 13,500 cash machines across the UK, including those of Midland. It also guarantees your cheques for £100 and lets you pay by Switch.

you don't want hassle paying bills...

...so we make it easy. Simply call us, tell us who to pay, how much and when. You can organise everything to suit you, then forget it.

you don't want poor service...

...so we make sure you never get it. Call us and our friendly, professional Banking Representatives deal with your day-to-day banking. We have a team of specialists on hand to help with your more complex banking needs too.

you don't want restricted access...

...so we offer you PC banking too, at no additional cost. With our free software you can access your account via our private, secure online network 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Online, you simply do your own banking - pay bills, check your balance, apply to open accounts, transfer funds and view transactions - and you can send us messages too.

you don't want to have to shop around...

...so we make sure you don't have to. You have access to a comprehensive range of direct banking services. These include a fee free Visa Card, a range of saving and borrowing opportunities, a no gimmicks home finance service, along with insurance and travel services.

you don't want hassle moving...

...so we make it simple to open an account, transfer your salary and other transactions. As a member of the HSBC Group we offer you not only the UK's leading telephone banking service, but also a secure and efficient PC banking service. To find out more call now on **0800 24 24 24**, complete the coupon or visit our website at **www.firstdirect.co.uk**.

why not bank for free?

Annual current account charges (annual fees for use of £250 overdraft)	
Lloyds Classic	£96.00
NatWest Current Plus	£60.00
Barclays Bank Account	£60.00
First Direct Cheque Account	**£0.00**

for 24 hour banking call free

☎ 0800 24 24 24

please quote ref BK911

or complete the coupon and post to:
First Direct, FREEPOST, Leeds LS98 2RF

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms or Title

Surname

Forename(s)

UK Address

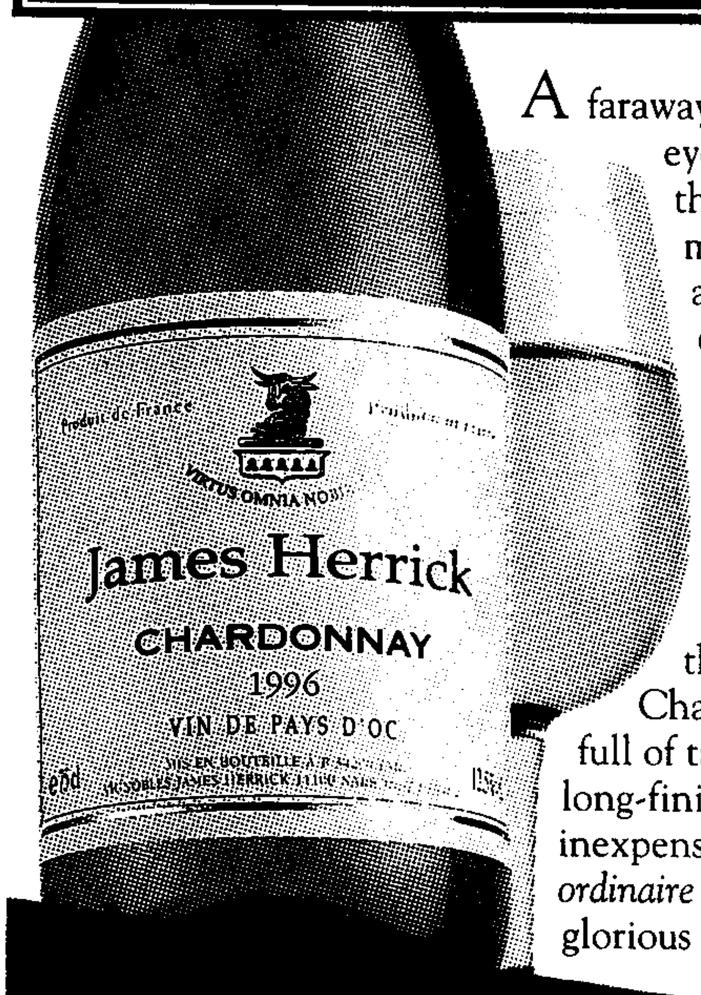
BK912

Postcode

Telephone No

Please send me information on Cheque Account ☐ Savings ☐

If you like the sound of the South of France you'll love the taste.

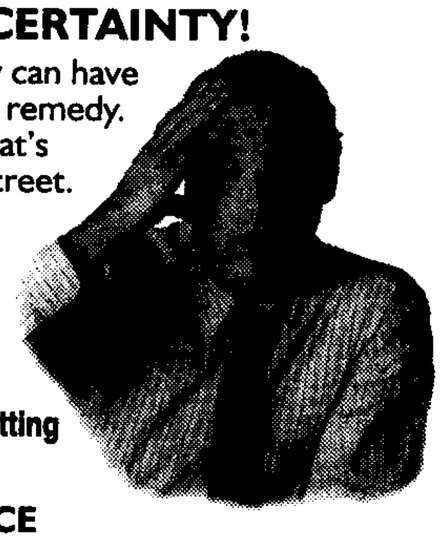


A faraway look comes into people's eyes when mention is made of the South of France. For most, it is the capital of *chic*: a sun-kissed playground of exotic resorts and spectacular scenery studded with ancient vineyards - among them, *La Motte*, *La Boulandière* and *Les Garrigues de Truilhas*, where James Herrick makes the definitive *Midi* Chardonnay. Rich, stylish and full of taste; fresh, yet fruity and long-finishing. And amazingly inexpensive. Why settle for *vin ordinaire* when you can afford the glorious South?

James Herrick
CHARDONNAY
THE PICK OF THE SOUTH OF FRANCE

AVAILABLE COUNTRYWIDE FROM SUPERMARKETS, SPECIALIST CHAINS AND MAJOR INDEPENDENT WINE MERCHANTS

DISCREET
SURVEILLANCE
EQUIPMENT ENDS UNCERTAINTY!



Whether it's commercial or personal, disloyalty can have catastrophic results. Fortunately there is now a remedy. Lorraine Electronics provide personal advice that's dependable, reliable and more importantly, discreet. You can write or telephone in confidence for advice or simply to request a free catalogue.

■ UHF Crystal Controlled Room and Telephone Transmitters ■ Body Wires and Wire Taps ■ Radio and Computer Controlled Systems ■ Specialist Receivers and Recorders ■ Recording and Transmitting Briefcases ■ Counter Surveillance Equipment

LORRAINE ELECTRONICS SURVEILLANCE
716 Lea Bridge Road, London E10 6AW
0181-558 4226
PROTECTING YOUR BEST INTERESTS FAX 0181 558 1338
PE

BINDERS

QUICK, NEAT AND EASY!
£7.50 INC P&P
TELEPHONE:
0171 228 0425

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY RECRUITMENT

We recruit exclusively for firms of Management Consultants in the UK and throughout Europe. We specialise in transferring Consultants (and teams of Consultants) between Consultancies and helping others making that first move into Consultancy.

As part of our unique service we offer a specialist career clinic, a personal diagnostic facility that gives you a thorough review of your intellectual capital and skill set so as to fully evaluate your marketability. This service, which is free of charge and conducted on a one to one basis, concludes with an honest assessment of how you can develop your career, together with practical help in expanding skill sets and offers a link into our substantial client base and vacancy network.

We focus the service on candidates with a speciality in one of the sectors or functional areas listed.

DISCIPLINE FOCUS
- Strategy & Change Management
- Business Process Re-engineering
- Financial & Cost Management
- IT and Systems Implementation
- Performance Improvement
- Logistics & Supply Chain Management
- Marketing

SPECIALIST MARKET SECTORS
- Telecommunications
- Financial Services
- Oil. Gas & Energy
- Manufacturing & Engineering
- Utilities
- Public Sector & P.F.I.
- F.M.C.G. & Retail

■ Contact David Brownlow for more information: Huntswood Associates Ltd, Castle Hill House, Castle Hill, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1PD. Please quote reference number 77269.
Telephone: 01753 855200 Out of hours: 01628 777256 Facsimile: 01753 831360 email: brownlow@huntswood.co.uk Web site: http://www.huntswood.co.uk

HUNTSWOOD ASSOCIATES

EYE REFUSES TO APOLOGISE

THERE are continuing demands from Japanese veterans of the 1970s that I should make some formal apology for the "atrocious" cover of *Private Eye* No. 256 *(see above).*

Whilst I accept that the cover was regrettable and caused distress to thousands of Japanese subjects, it is not part of the culture of *Private Eye* to apologise (except when threatened with a libel action).

In any case, it is not possible for me as Lord Gnome to make any statement of any kind on a political matter due to my quasi-divine status as proprietor of a newspaper — a man revered as a god-like figure by millions of readers.

Besides, the events of 1971 are all in the distant past and it is now time to build bridges, not to mention cars, with our former enemies the Japanese.

And if they don't like it, they can refer themselves to the above cover.

Emperor Gnomohito
(Order of the Garter-Fuck)
The Chrysanthemum Throne
Ah Soho.

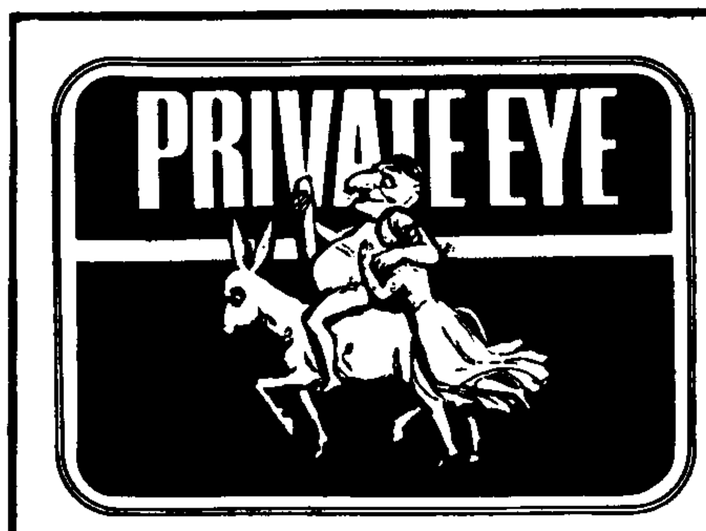
SUBSCRIPTION RATES

£17 per annum. Europe and Eire £25.
Airmail – rest of world £33.
Cheques/POs to Private Eye. Access/Visa.

PRIVATE EYE SUBSCRIPTIONS
Mortimer House, 230-236 Lavender Hill, London SW11 1LE
Tel: 0171-228 0588. Fax: 0171-924 3719.
Email: eyesubs@cix.co.uk

EDITORIAL
6 Carlisle Street, London W1V 5RG.
Tel: 0171-437 4017. Fax: 0171-437 0705.
Email: strobes@private-eye.co.uk
http://www.private-eye.co.uk
http://privateeye.uk.msn.com

ABC CONSUMER PRESS



COLOUR SECTION

PART two of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry will hear evidence from the solicitors for Lakhvinder "Ricky" Reel who died in October 1997. His death and the subsequent lack of action from the Metropolitan police bear striking resemblance to the Lawrence case.

Reel disappeared in October 1997 after going out in Kingston-upon-Thames with three Asian friends. Soon after midnight they were racially abused by two white men and two of the Asian men were assaulted. They ran off in different directions to try to escape their attackers. That was the last time the friends saw Lakhvinder. His body was pulled out of the Thames a fortnight later. In between, his family had pleaded with the police to investigate. But there was confusion over which police force should investigate. The policemen who did speak to the family suggested he had run off with a girlfriend.

Once the body was found the police classified Reel's case as "accidental death". They came to this conclusion because his flies were undone so they believed he'd been urinating in the river and had fallen in.

The Metropolitan police, who were finally given responsibility for the case, still didn't take statements from the witnesses to the racial attack. No effort was made to identify the attackers with police photographs and no incident room was set up.

The family sent a complaint to the police complaints authority last November, who passed it to Surrey police to investigate.

The Reel family's lawyers were told verbally by PCA member Tony Williams that the previous problems with the Stephen Lawrence case would be avoided as Surrey police could immediately investigate the death.

In December they met with Surrey police who had bad news. The Met Police had handed out some leaflets in Kingston town centre and thus their investigation into the death was still active. Surrey police could therefore only investigate the complaint, not the death itself. Five months later they are still investigating the complaint.

There is a campaign for justice for Ricky Reel care of SMG Unity, PO Box 304, Southall, Middx.

● *More Footnotes: Biotech special 26, 27*

SO, farewell President Suharto of Indonesia, golfing enthusiast, mass murderer and friend of British politicians.

Lady Thatcher will certainly miss him. When he visited the UK in 1979 she found him "an immensely hard-working and effective ruler"; and despite a few human rights abuses, observed that "this is a society which by most criteria 'works'."

Opposition leader James Callaghan was also impressed. Despite a resolution from the international committee of the Labour party condemning Suharto, Callaghan still attended the queen's banquet in Suharto's honour.

When Thatcher then visited Indonesia in 1985 she did mention human rights abuse in East Timor but without her usual robustness. She concentrated instead on discussing orders for Rapier anti-aircraft missiles, Tribal class frigates and lucrative training deals, dwelling on the "more or less sound public finances" of a country already infamous for corruption.

Visiting a Dr Habibie's "excellent" Institute of Technology, she was also impressed that "I was met by girls throwing rose petals on the ground in front of me and then all the way from the airport by crowds five to six deep along the roadside crying 'Tacher, Tacher'."

Lowly MPs have enjoyed Suharto's hospitality too and the Commons Anglo-Indonesian association is thriving. Those who have

"He's got his father's 'No's..."

experienced Suharto largesse include two Ulster Unionist MPs: East Antrim MP Roy Beggs (18 days "as guest of the Indonesian government"); and Cecil Walker, MP for Belfast North (a guest for 15 days). Also on the junket was the Tory MP for Teignbridge, Patrick Nicholls, "leader of the all-party Anglo Indonesian Parliamentary Group".

● *More HP Sauce 8*

THE revelation that Paul Johnson has been having protracted Ugandan conversations with a mistress while lecturing the nation on marriage and morality came as no surprise to hacks at the *Daily Mail*, where the old hypocrite's versatility is legendary.

On general election day last year, Johnson wrote two long articles for the next morning's paper. One, to be used in the event of a Labour defeat, was severely critical of Blair. The other lavished praise on the Labour leader, culminating (in the printed version) with: "I have learned not just to respect him, but to like him and feel very affectionate towards him."

Once the election outcome was known, the requisite piece of brown-nosing was sent to the printers, weather-vane Johnson once again pointing in the right direction.

● *More on the flagellation of St Paul 7*

THE Arms for Africa affair doesn't just involve foreign office (FO) mandarins or Tory and Labour ministers — it even reaches to the heart of the relentlessly do-gooding Liberal party.

Last time mercenaries fought in Sierra Leone in 1995 they were paid by Executive Outcomes, an associated company of the firm currently involved, Sandline International.

Executive Outcomes has close links with a company called Heritage Oil and Gas, whose chairman in 1995 was one David Steel, leader of the moral high ground-hogging Liberal party.

● *More F-ups at the FO 9*

"Do you have anything that involves killing people?"

Street of Shame

"They've got away with media"

MUCH has been made of the newspaper battles for the stories of the two British nurses Lucille McLaughlan and Deborah Parry.

The *Daily Mail*'s U-turn was particularly spectacular. From supporting the imprisoned nurses last August (DID THE SAUDI GUARDS MURDER YVONNE?) to turning on them (NURSES — NOW THE BACKLASH: *Freed pair fly home to fury over sale of stories*) shortly after it had itself lost the bidding war to buy up the "convicted murderer and her "willing accomplice".

But the good news story peddled by the *Express* and *Mirror*, who bought up Parry and McLaughlan respectively, already has undercurrents of discontent.

Peter Watson was Lucille McLaughlan's English lawyer throughout the trial and the subsequent blood money negotiations. Watson was removed from the case by McLaughlan just before the deals were done with the *Mirror*. He was replaced by William Boyle, who conducted the financial negotiations with Max Clifford and the *Daily Mirror*.

Then there was the statement from the women's Saudi lawyer Salah Al Hejailan, which accused them of contriving their story about sexual abuse and torture at the hands of the Saudi police. Al Hejailan had been selected from the British embassy's list of approved Saudi lawyers. Not only that, but he had, along with the English lawyers, lodged a formal complaint about the women's mistreatment as early as 30 December 1996.

Throughout the trial Al Hejailan presented the women's allegations of abuse to the Saudi courts. He also confirmed his own belief in his clients' allegations, according to Peter Watson and Rodger Pannone, lawyer for Deborah Parry.

Meanwhile the friendship between the two nurses is showing signs of strain. In the *Express* Parry revealed: "I couldn't bear her. People think we were friends but the truth was far from that." Meanwhile in the *Mirror* McLaughlan said: "I realised there could be two sides to Debs. She came across as sweet and fragile. But she could be extremely strong-willed and stubborn."

Will any paper be investigating what actually happened in Saudi Arabia? Don't watch this space.

I-SKY

***MOTD*, a BBC magazine for Match of the Day bores, features gorgeous, pouting Sky Sports presenter Gabby Yorath reviewing footie coverage in the Sunday papers.**

She doesn't think much of it. Of the *Mail on Sunday* (prop. Associated Newspapers) she says: "I wouldn't go out of my way to find it. It's a little dull"; the *Express on Sunday* (prop. Express Newspapers) is "not particularly challenging"; "I don't get the *Sunday Mirror* that often..."; "I don't like the *Sunday People*... why would you get it?" And so on.

Nor does she like the *Independent on Sunday* and she has only faint praise for the *Sunday Telegraph* (prop. Conrad Black) and *Observer*. But she *loves* the *News of the World* ("the best of the bunch for football") and *Sunday Times* ("great pictures... always interesting..." etc. Which is just as well as both are owned by Rupert Murdoch, owner of Sky Sports and Gabby's employer.

***EXPRESS on Sunday* editor Amanda Platell was at Christopher's restaurant in Covent Garden last week. Nothing unusual about that, save that her lunch companion was one Heidi Kingstone, Canadian ex-wife of Mirror Group supremo David "Rommel" Montgomery, who parted company from the dour Ulsterman on less than amicable terms.**

Platell is putting the final touches to a roman-à-clef based on her experience of working with Rommel, who eventually appointed Bridget "Death" Rowe over Platell as *Sunday Mirror* editor. And, of course, she wants to be sure that all the details are correct.

No doubt Rommel, whose commitment to accuracy led him to create an "Academy of Excellence", will be delighted to hear it.

READERS of the *Sunday Times*'s Irish edition two weeks ago will have seen a long account of the "Slab" Murphy case written by Liam Clarke and Barrie Penrose, who spent more than a year gathering evidence to prove Murphy's IRA connection.

A similar though shorter story in the English edition carried the sole byline "Stuart Wavell", with no mention of the two hacks who actually wrote the piece and ensured the paper's victory.

Shome mishtake, shurely?

A SPECIAL prize for the biggest load of Tosh written about actor Kevin Lloyd — aka Tosh Lines of *The Bill* — should be awarded to Lee Hannon of the *News of the World*, who penned a tear-stained piece about how they travelled together to the former Yugoslavia at Christmas 1995.

"I was to follow Kevin as he played Santa," he recalled, "bearing toys and a glimmer of happiness to children among the ruins of their country." Hannon gave an eyewitness description of their visit to an orphanage in Split after a gruelling four-day drive through Bosnia and Croatia. Hannon was deeply touched. "It was there in his eyes, somewhere in the depths of those misted brown pools, that I first glimpsed the real man inside tragic *Bill* star Kevin Lloyd."

All very moving — but, alas, very far from the truth. On his trip to Bosnia, Kevin Lloyd was accompanied by *News of the World* hack Peter Alexander and photographer Gary Trotter. "Tosh spent about a week in our company, most of which was spent in a Land Rover," Alexander told the *Eye*. "We also spent several nights at the Hotel Intercontinental in Zagreb. In all that time, Tosh was rarely out of our view, much less our company. If he did meet a Lee Hannon, I'm sure we would have been introduced."

It is just possible, Alexander admits, that Tosh/Kevin might have met Hannon for five minutes somewhere. What is quite impossible is that Hannon was present at the orphanage in Split; the only people there, other than the children and staff, were Lloyd, Alexander, Trotter and three British soldiers.

How, then, did Hannon produce such a vivid account of Kevin Lloyd's emotions on visiting the orphanage? Simple: he lifted all the quotes and descriptions verbatim from Alexander's original piece, published more than two years ago. Alexander, now a freelance, offered the *NoW* features desk an article about the Bosnia trip after Kevin Lloyd's death — but was turned down because "we don't think we'll be running anything this Sunday".

THE *Guardian*'s Online section on 7 May was full of praise for the virtual think tank Nexus, which debated the nature of Tony Blair's Third Way for two years on the internet.

Oddly, the half-page article omitted to mention the author of the website and chairman of its discussions, one Bill Thompson. This is the same Bill Thompson who used to contribute freelance articles to the *Guardian* until his refusal to sign the paper's draconian copyright contracts made him *persona non grata* at Farringdon Road.

THE *Observer* faces embarrassment over its curious campaign to free an alleged British fraudster from a Portuguese jail.

Its Free Professor Lowry campaign has been so successful the *Independent on Sunday* and Radio 4's *PM* programme joined in with stories about this apparent victim of injustice.

Lowry had been held without charge since his arrest a year ago. Apart from his press friends he also has the support of the FBI, two of whose officers appeared in Portugal to demand Lowry's release, saying he was a one-time mole. Former FBI operative Craig Heesch was joined by retired agent Don Rodgers, according to the *Observer*.

Lowry was arrested in a police raid on Paramount Portugal, a high pressure telephone sales office which peddled shares in two tiny Florida companies, D.W. Filters and Global Connect Direct.

A fact overlooked by the *Observer* is that neither DWF nor Global Connect has a proper stock market quote anywhere in the world. Despite this, the *Observer* quotes Craig Heesch as complaining that his friend Lowry has been arrested simply because stock market prices went down. Nor does the paper reveal that Lowry's Paramount was actually the owner of Global Connect, with 300,000 shares to sell at around $5 apiece.

The *Observer* also failed to mention Lowry's associates at Paramount. Lowry's assistant was a Dutch woman named Marianne van der Zwaan. Van der Zwaan worked in 1991 for Hanover Assets, an Amsterdam telemarketing company which sold hugely overpriced cheap gemstones as investments. In 1994 she was the registered owner of First Jersey, a classic share-scam boiler room which used Isle of Man telephone numbers but had its calls rerouted to its real base in the Netherlands.

Lowry's second-in-command at Paramount was Al Funt, a known international swindler. In 1986 his Belgian broking firm Mercantile Benedict was closed down by the authorities. In 1987 his Swiss firm Societé Financière Benedicte went the same way. In 1988 he was behind a Barcelona telesales scam called Commercial Union International. In 1991 he was one of the controllers of Hanover Assets in Amsterdam. And in 1994 — under the false name Alan Curtis — he was joint owner of First Jersey.

And the link between Lowry and the phone-'em-and-fleece-'em brigade? According to the Amsterdam Chamber of Commerce, gemstone scam company Hanover Assets was controlled by another company, Kirkfield Administrators, of the Isle of Man. And Kirkfield was run by... David Lowry.

As for Lowry's supporters at the FBI, a spokesman at the bureau's Washington HQ said that a check of employee records for the past 20 years showed no trace of Rodgers or Heesch, and the FBI would never give its backing to a campaign to release a suspect in a foreign country. On 22 April Portuguese police charged David Lowry with fraud, criminal association and falsification of share certificates. The charges specify almost 1,400 separate offences. They have not been reported in the *Observer*.

WITH Emma Noble's nipples on the front page and the subject of Lynda Lee-Potter's latest bout of motherly advice, it might seem anything goes in the *Daily Mail*. But bodily functions are still out of bounds, at least in the cartoons.

Peter Plant, the man behind the Bogart strip, was told his use of the words "toss" and "cock" in a description of a tennis match was unsuitable. He could have one, but not the other.

The next day a ball soared out of frame to land in something with a suggestive "splat" as the eponymous cat observed that that one had best be counted as "lost". No, ruled readers' editor Andrew Simpson, such innuendo was in poor taste and unacceptable in the *Mail*. And so the ball ended up hitting a car sunroof. Contrary to how it might seem, *Mail* readers are not yet ready for a pile of crap in their paper.

■ **Sandra Ashbee, sister of Deborah Parry, fights her way through the media scum at Gatwick yesterday** *Press & Journal caption*

Scenes from the Life of St Paul

ELEVEN YEARS OF HUMBUG

1987: Johnson publishes his *History of the Jews*. "Basically, I'm a Ten Commandments Christian," he tells an interviewer, Lynda Lee-Potter, of the *Daily Mail*. "I think they are a very good guideline... We have lost our anchorage in absolute morality, our sense that some things are always wrong in any circumstances." One of the Ten Commandments, it will be recalled, is "thou shalt not commit adultery".

1988: Johnson publishes *Intellectuals*, a book of biographical essays. "I want to focus on the moral and judgmental credentials of intellectuals to tell mankind how to conduct itself," he announces. "How did they run their own lives? With what degree of rectitude did they behave to family, friends and associates? Were they just in their sexual and financial dealings?"

The intellectuals chosen for scrutiny are all liberals or left-wingers; and every one of them falls short of his own high standards. Jean-Jacques Rousseau was "vain, egotistical and quarrelsome"; worse, he "enjoyed being spanked on his bare bottom". Shelley "always considered that he had a perpetual dispensation from the normal rules of sexual behaviour". Tolstoy "was unable to dispense with sex until he was 81". Bertolt Brecht "took particular pleasure in corrupting strictly brought-up Catholic girls". Bertrand Russell "had no scruples about seducing any woman who fell in his way". Jean-Paul Sartre "was frank about his desire to sleep with many women". Edmund Wilson "took a gruesome interest in the garments women had to discard to allow him entry". Kenneth Tynan "enacted elaborate sado-masochistic fantasies".

What conclusions should be drawn? "Readers will judge for themselves," Johnson writes. "But I think I detect today a certain public scepticism when intellectuals stand up to preach to us... I share that scepticism."

1992: "One reason why I think the West has succeeded, as opposed to the Muslim world, is that we have a tradition of monogamous marriage," Johnson declares in an interview with Mick Brown of the *Daily Telegraph*. "One of the great lessons of Christian moral theology is the way in which we have these drives — and sexuality is a good example — which when properly handled and restrained is a creative, morally worthy thing, but taken too far, or misapplied or perverted, is wicked."

Emboldened by all this sex-talk, Mick Brown mentions that a female friend and admirer had described Johnson as "the only faithful husband in London — unfortunately". Johnson seems curiously reluctant to accept the compliment. "I don't talk about my private life," he snaps, and goes on to demand the introduction of a privacy law to protect him from such impertinence.

1993: "I crave excitement," Johnson reveals in the *Spectator* on 11 September. "What I cannot bear is humbug." On 26 September, without a trace of humbug, he deplores "sexual licence, the availability of easy divorce, the decline of monogamous marriage" as the great evils of the modern world. "The application of moral relativism to sex and family life," he thunders, "leads to the modern welfare slum."

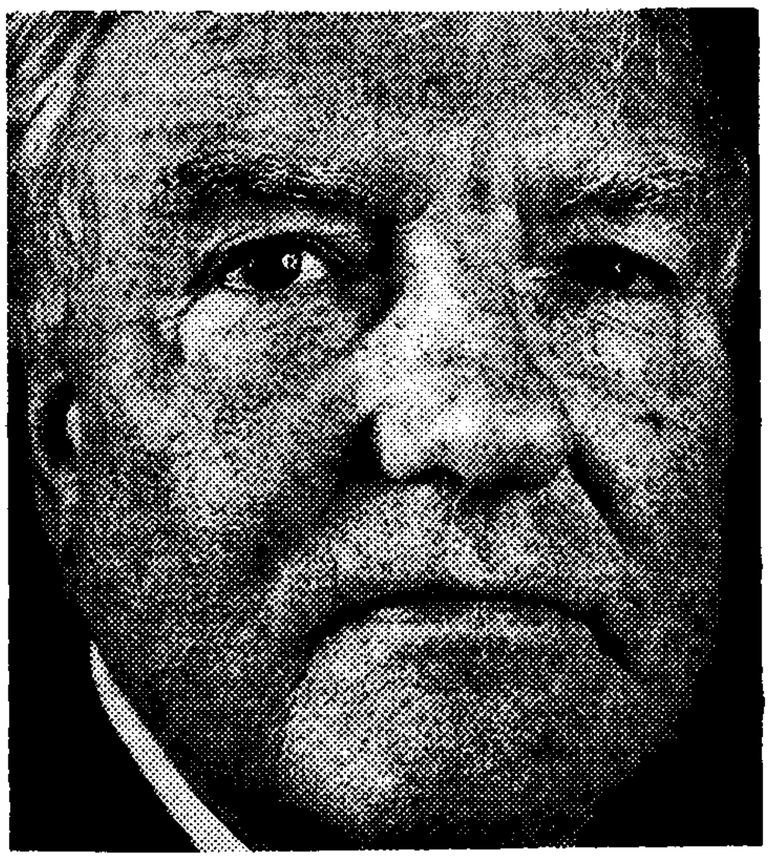
1994: Johnson rejoices at the resignation of Tim Yeo from John Major's government. "Adultery is wrong and should be punished," he writes in the *Mail* on 6 January. "If the offender occupies a high position, then the punishment should be correspondingly severe." The "apparently irresistible rise of sexual promiscuity" is a sin "crying out to heaven for vengeance".

On 10 January, Johnson pens an "open letter" to John Major in the *Daily Mail*. "You are running a government with a low moral tone, in a way which suggests you believe the Ten Commandments simply don't matter," he writes. "You tolerate sexual and financial behaviour by ministers which falls well below the standards demanded." His advice to the PM? "Deliver a major speech, insisting you have in no way retreated from your 'back to basics' campaign. Make it clear it remains at the heart of all your policies and that it is about morality, public *and* private."

He returns to the subject yet again in the *Spectator* of 12 March: "David Mellor, Michael Mates, Tim Yeo, Hartley Booth, the five-mistress transport minister Steven Norris — and so the list goes on. It is an interesting sign of the times that most of these delinquents seem to have aroused envy rather than disapprobation. In this sleazy Commons, the finger of scorn and ridicule is pointed, rather, at John Selwyn Gummer, denounced to me by one of his colleague as 'a nasty goody-goody' who has the nerve to set a good example in his private life and who appears to possess, and be guided by, that almost forgotten organ, a conscience."

1995: In a lip-smacking piece about "Britain's Pornographer-in-Chief" — Channel 4 boss Michael Grade — Johnson regales *Daily Mail* readers with some of the delights offered by the channel: "a man pulling a girl across the studio using a rope attached to his genitals... a rubber-clad woman simulating sex with a computer". He suggests that Grade should "open a Soho strip joint or launch a sex newspaper or even go to Nevada and buy a brothel. Good riddance, the vast majority would say."

Johnson is something of an expert on rubber-clad women. In January 1995, the blameless duchesses and bishops who read the *Spectator* are treated to a long article in which he reveals, with drooling enthusiasm, that today's young women are "taking on the sumptuary and insignia of traditional sado-masochism and transforming it". He delivers a scholarly account of how "girls" first transformed themselves into "cyberpunks, wearing plastic gear and high-tech gadgets"; then they invaded the motorbike scene, dressing up in "new kinds of tight-fitting leather uniforms with ubiquitous zippers"; next came "tattoos and body-piercing". According to Johnson, many young women see piercing as "a form of power assertion, and have their nipples and navels pierced for rings, often adding what are called tongue-spears and nose-horns".



***From the* Oxford English Dictionary:**
"Johnson. A common surname, used in low slang to designate the penis."

Nowadays "at the new techno-glamour clubs all over Europe", women exhibit themselves in "an ever-growing range of patent leather, PVC, plastic and new artificial materials, plus ingenious use of stretch-rubber." Johnson goes on to identify the best of the new fashion designers catering for the S&M crowd, including "Tentacle in London, Fischer in Aachen. Shosham and Leth in Copenhagen..."

Can it be that Paul's saintly wife Marigold is equipped with a PVC wrap-skirt and a tongue-spear — or is he pursuing his research elsewhere?

"Who speaks up for marriage and its preservation?" Johnson demands in the *Daily Mail* on 22 December of the same year. "Am I being too optimistic in hoping that the Leader of the Opposition will have a few words to say for the marriage bond and the survival of the family?" If Tony Blair did so, he would send "a signal to the people of Britain that one of our leaders, at least, puts the sanctity of family life before mere expediency."

1996: On 19 October, Johnson dispenses useful advice to *Mail* readers. "Health, if you are fortunate to have it, is worth keeping," he observes. "So 30 years ago I gave up smoking. Four years ago I gave up alcohol. A year ago I gave up chocolate. Now I am thinking of giving up meat. (But not sex, at any price: I shall wait until it gives *me* up.)" He does not say with whom he is pursuing this priceless pleasure. But we have a clue: the family is "the greatest source of happiness", and "the foundation of family" is marriage. "Marigold and I are coming up to our 40th wedding anniversary, so I know a little bit about the subject."

On 22 October Paul savages the Catholic bishops who have published a document condemning Tory policies. What people really require from bishops, he writes in the *Daily Mail*, "is a reiteration of basic Christian teaching: to uphold the Ten Commandments; denounce the Seven Deadly Sins; stress the importance of the family and of the marriage bond..." The seven deadly sins, it will be recalled, include anger and lust.

The point is made at greater length in his new book *The Quest For God: A Personal Pilgrimage*. "It is hard to imagine a more complete moral anarchy than the one which reigns at present in the Western world in sexual matters," he writes, "where selfishness in the pursuit of satisfaction is the imperative norm, where sexuality is completely separated from duty, responsibility, social need and communal harmony — as well as from reproduction — where, indeed, sexuality is separated from all forms of love itself, except self-love, so that it becomes the absolute negation of the love God extends to the universe... Here is our little *pandaemonium*, when men and women behave like devils and evil reigns." How different from the home-life of our own dear Paul.

Or is it? At the end of the book he prints some prayers he has written "for various occasions". His morning prayer begins thus: "I am sorry that I have sinned against you with my body, my mind and my spirit. I am particularly sorry because of the many blessings you have bestowed upon me... You gave me the best of wives, Marigold, without whom I would long since have died an ignominious death." Eh? What on earth has the old goat been doing with his body?

1997: "Blair's Government Will Ultimately Fail Unless He Rescues the Family," announces an ominous headline in the *Spectator* of 22 September. Yes, Johnson is riding his hobbyhorse again. "The undermining of the institution of marriage and the weakening of the family system stand right at the heart of Britain's problems... What better way, then, to make the millennium meaningful — to make it useful and profitable as well as holy — than to bring vigorously to the attention of the nation the urgent need to re-establish the living family as the very bedrock of our society?' What a splendid title to lasting fame Blair could earn if he went down in history as the prime minister who restored the British family to health and strength."

1998: At last we learn how Johnson is doing his bit to restore the family to health and strength. Freelance journalist Gloria Stewart, enraged by his "gross hypocrisy", reveals to the *Express* that she has been his mistress for the past 11 years. "We made love mainly at his London home, but we once had a won-derful weekend at his home in Somerset," she says.

"Sex has always been a very important part of his life. Paul loved to be spanked and it was a big feature of our relationship. I had to tell him he was very naughty boy. And he loved to hear of my other affairs. I think it turned him on. But our relationship was coming to an end." Had he seen the error of his ways, then? Er, no: "He told me he was seeing a lady who was a philosophy don and he was very fond of her." Asked about the affair, Johnson denies any hypocrisy. "I believe in family values," he says. "We are all sinners. Well, I am."

Oddly enough there is no mention of the story in any of the national newspapers owned by Conrad Black, Rupert Murdoch or Lord Rothermere — all of whom happen to be friends and employers of Paul Johnson. In the *Spectator*, however, his fellow-adulterer Taki is delirious. "I can't wait to get to London to honour Paul," he gushes, promising to throw a huge party for Johnson at the Ritz to which "I will invite most of the pretty young women in London and New York". No doubt Marigold will be delighted.

IN THE TEAROOM

THE clever young men charged with improving the Tory party's battered fortunes have just about had enough of shadow foreign secretary Michael Howard.

Every time he's given a free kick he seems to score an own goal. First he fluffs the Sandline argument by allowing Tony Blair to seize the moral high ground by painting the Tories' objections to Robin Cook's idleness and incompetence as indicating sympathy with the illegal junta in Sierra Leone, whilst boasting that "new" Labour was on the side of the angels and the restoration of democracy.

Now, in the row over the European Union (EU) arms code, Howard has come out publicly and uncompromisingly on the side of the merchants of death. The party's spin doctors have tried to explain that shady arms dealers have few votes and nowadays supply precious little money to Tory coffers. In fact, they've gone so far as to suggest that the only conceivable beneficiary of Howard's indignant frothing over the issue will be David Mellor, who enjoys a juicy consultancy with Royal Ordnance.

But the shadow foreign secretary just doesn't get it. Years of experience at the centre of government have left him with immutable political reflexes: hard-faced men who make money out of wars... good; bleeding hearts, bad. What is to be done?

Central Office apparatchiks Danny Finkelstein and Gregor MacKay are gearing up for a massive, nationwide series of focus groups called "Listening to Britain" in which Joe Public gets a chance to spell out in terms even the Stupid Party will understand just what it was about the Conservatives that was most off-putting on 1 May last year. The phrase "sleazy arms deals" and the name "Michael Howard" are, for different reasons, expected to feature prominently in these useful and revealing discussions.

'Urquhart'

LABOUR MPs worked themselves into a lather of indignant fury over Indonesia's evil dictator President Suharto last week, even though Robin Cook's ethical foreign policy has delivered the full panoply of "counter-insurgency" equipment the ageing despot ordered from the last government.

But as the debate wound up, "on message" MPs were approached in the lobby by whips, unusually bearing friendly gifts. These were the green ballot slips for elections to the parliamentary Labour party and the European section of Labour's national executive. Helpfully, the names of the candidates were already printed.

All any grovelling MP had to do was simply sign the form. The whips would be "happy to do the rest" — and thus Pauline Green, Clive Soley and Anne Begg would immediately be propelled on to the party's ruling body.

"Off message" MPs could still apply for a separate ballot form, although once most of them learnt that the ballot would not be secret and that a vote for Dennis Skinner would go down in the whips' black book, they immediately caved in.

Suharto and others round the globe will take heart that "new" Labour's idea of democracy sits so well with their own.

THE *Eye* is sad to report that the Yes vote in Northern Ireland has scuppered a blossoming Westminster friendship.

The new UK Unionist MP, Robert McCartney, and former high-jump champion, Vauxhall MP Kate Hoey, had become very matey after his election last year, with Hoey pointing out that "not only is he articulate and personable", but he agreed with many of Labour's social policies too.

The fact that he is against integrated education in Northern Ireland, which she is firmly for, did not seem to matter. Alas, the Good Friday agreement shattered their camaraderie. Hoey declared for the agreement while McCartney was passionately against.

"NEW" LABOUR is dragging clapped out Tories back into power through the back door.

Equal opportunities minister Alan Howarth recently announced that private schools company Nord Anglia plc is preferred bidder for the National Disability Development Initiative. In plain language this means the company will be given lucrative contracts to run privatised careers help for the disabled.

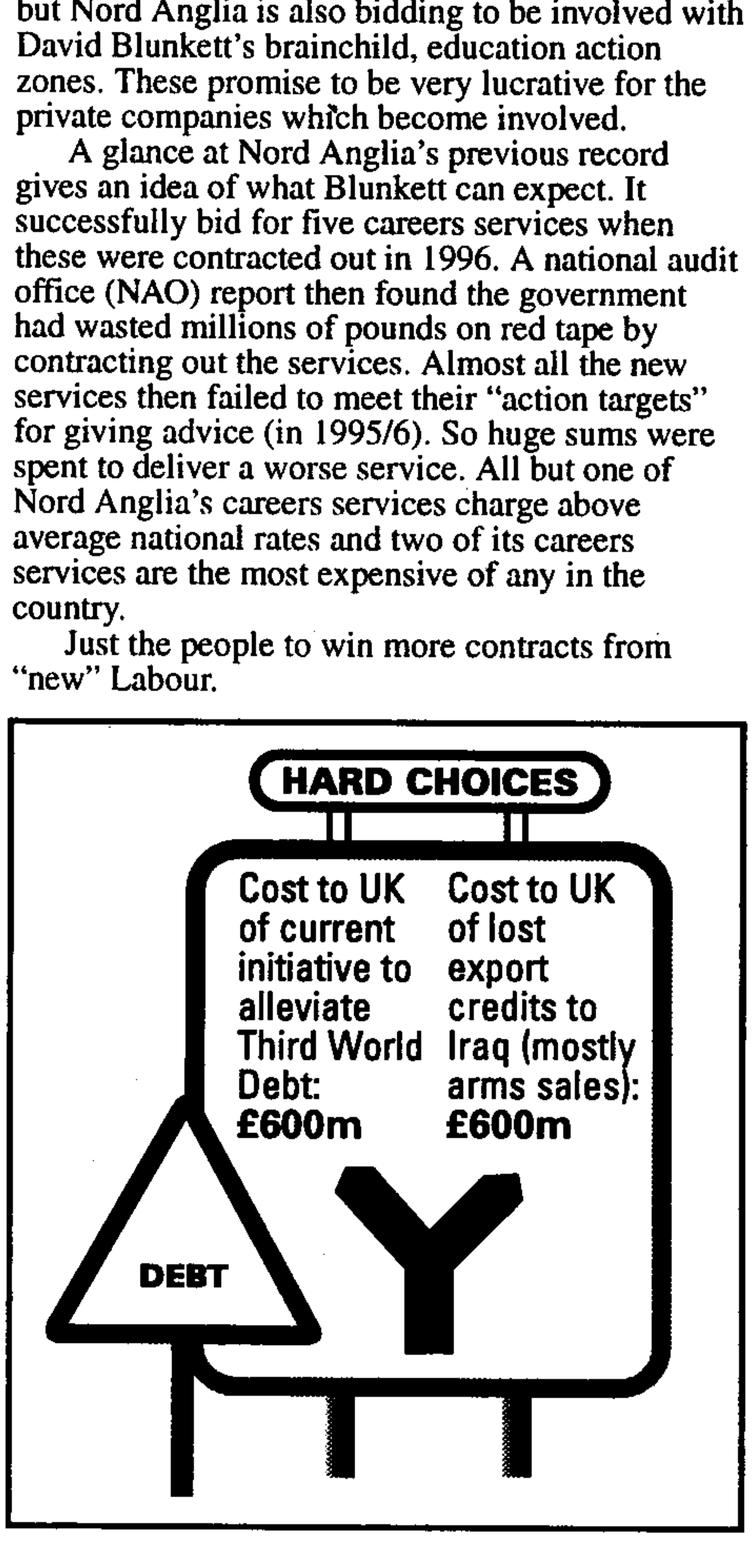
Nord Anglia has been so successful picking up government contracts, including Ofsted inspections, it was able to float on the stock exchange last year. As part of the ritual of becoming a plc, Nord Anglia brought former Tory minister Sir David Trippier on to its board.

Trippier held office in social security, trade and environment between 1979 and 1992 and was deputy chairman of the party. He was an apologist for rising homelessness and an enthusiast for metering water — which falls particularly hard on the disabled. He was also one of the Conservatives leading masons, making it into the Masonic Year Book. A recipient of Ian Greer Associates' money for his constituency fighting fund, Trippier can now look forward to an income from the taxpayer.

The disability initiative is relatively small fry, but Nord Anglia is also bidding to be involved with David Blunkett's brainchild, education action zones. These promise to be very lucrative for the private companies which become involved.

A glance at Nord Anglia's previous record gives an idea of what Blunkett can expect. It successfully bid for five careers services when these were contracted out in 1996. A national audit office (NAO) report then found the government had wasted millions of pounds on red tape by contracting out the services. Almost all the new services then failed to meet their "action targets" for giving advice (in 1995/6). So huge sums were spent to deliver a worse service. All but one of Nord Anglia's careers services charge above average national rates and two of its careers services are the most expensive of any in the country.

Just the people to win more contracts from "new" Labour.


HARD CHOICES
Cost to UK of current initiative to alleviate Third World Debt: £600m
Cost to UK of lost export credits to Iraq (mostly arms sales): £600m
DEBT

WINCHESTER Lib Dem MP Mark Oaten, who promised when he defeated former Tory health minister Gerry Malone last year to be "a new kind of MP", has been displaying some remarkably old-style hypocrisy.

Inspector Knacker is to investigate an allegation that a Lib Dem leaflet delivered to homes in Winchester during recent local elections breached the forgery and counterfeiting act 1981.

The cover carried a picture of the prime minister and the words: "An important message from Tony Blair." Inside, under the headings "Make your vote count" and " 'Don't let the Tories take you back' — Tony Blair", it urged Labour supporters in two key wards to vote tactically for the Lib Dems to keep the Tories out. Only after very careful study would voters have realised the leaflet was published by the Lib Dems and not Labour. Certainly plenty of people were persuaded of the argument, for Labour duly lost the wards in question.

The offending leaflet was produced by Oaten's researcher Jason Sutton, and personally delivered by the MP to scores of homes. He has refused to apologise, despite disquiet from colleagues.

IN SCOTLAND Tony Blair's supporters have got their revenge in early — albeit against their own colleagues rather than the Scottish Nationalists, who are bewildered at their steady run of good luck.

A selection panel for prospective MSPs (members of the Scottish parliament) has been "weeding" candidates who do not fit the new Cool Celtic image: ie people who think it's a bit mean giving single mothers less money. "It was akin to being interrogated by Joseph Stalin," whined one unsuccessful candidate.

The rejects reportedly include the three left-of-centre Scottish MPs Dennis Canavan (Falkirk West); Ian Davidson (Glasgow Pollok); and Michael Connarty (Falkirk East). Astonishingly, another reject is Murray Elder, Scottish secretary Donald Dewar's special adviser and one-time confidant of the late John Smith.

The panel included the former raging Bennite Ernie Ross, who once demanded that shadow cabinet members sign a "loyalty oath" to the Bennatollah. Now he demands "loyalty oaths" to a different T.B. Elder's hopes that his failure would be handled with tact were shortlived. The news was immediately leaked to a waiting hackette from the *Herald*.

AS THE Scottish assembly takes shape, a think tank has been set up to advocate "market-based policies for Scotland that will keep it prosperous and content within the United Kingdom".

The Scottish Policy Institute, as it will be called, was given rave reviews in the *Scotsman* by none other than Andrew Neill, editor in chief of *Scotsman* publications. In the same paper's recruitment section, the institute was advertising for a director. Anyone interested in the £35k job was invited to write to, er, Andrew Neill.

Such in-house advertising is not surprising since the reclusive Barclay brothers, owners of the *Scotsman*, are funding the think tank.

THE Welsh assembly's popularity is growing rapidly, helped by its advisory committee's suggestion that members will only have to be present three days a week.

Although committee chairman John Elfed Jones rushed to argue that the plan had been misunderstood, it was clear the committee had agreed that "assembly members would not need to be present in the assembly building on Mondays and Fridays".

Elfed Jones is himself used to juggling positions as he managed to chair the newly privatised Welsh Water in the early 1990s while also chairing the Welsh language board quango.

The cross-party advisory committee, appointed by Welsh secretary Ron Davies, includes Professor Nick Bourne, from the "Just Say No" campaign against an assembly. Bourne is just one of the antis now scrambling to get on board (see *Eyes passim*). Not surprising when they face the possibility of £30,000 a year for a three-day week.

ASKED what delights were lurking in his mysterious Dome, Peter Mandelson told a Commons committee last December that the attractions would include "Surfball — the Sport of the 21st Century".

He repeated the promise in an article for the London *Evening Standard* soon afterwards. Since then, however, it has been impossible to get any details of the great millennial sport. What are its rules, playing conditions and equipment, its contribution to discipline, character-building or teamwork, its potential for domestic and international competition? Are there professional Surfballers?

Now, thanks to Austin Mitchell MP, we know the answer.

Surfball never existed.

Replying to two parliamentary questions from Mitchell on 8 May, Mandelson explained that " 'Surfball' was a working title used for illustrative purposes at the end of last year, when design proposals were at a very early stage. The New Millennium Experience Company does not intend to seek to register the name 'Surfball' for any games or features which form part of the content of the 'Serious Play' Zone."

BACK in 1990 Tony Blair wowed the Labour party conference with a blistering attack on the Economic League, the private vetting organisation that checked thousands of job applications against its own files of subversives.

At the time Labour's arguments against the Economic League seemed successful. Big users of its services, like Ford UK, pulled out of their contracts and the blacklisters' operation folded. But the leaguers have proved hard to keep down. Several, including former chairman Saxon Tate, a member of the Tate & Lyle sugar dynasty, resurfaced as directors of a new company, CAPRIM, providing similar services to the Economic League.

The company Tate & Lyle is important to "new" Labour, being the party's fourth biggest business donor; and it is now bidding to run the party's education action zone in Newham.

Just as Saxon Tate, the arch blacklister, has become involved in the bid, so the London *Evening Standard* has launched a McCarthyite campaign against teachers in Newham who oppose the privatisation.

Thus, at the same time that Margaret Beckett, president of the board of trade, has put Labour's promise to outlaw blacklisting into her Fairness at Work white paper, David Blunkett, the education secretary, is getting into bed with the blacklisters in Newham.

SCHOOL inspectors at Ofsted, the educational standards office which spends around £150m a year, are facing inspection themselves by the national audit office (NAO).

Faith in Ofsted was dented recently when the Liberal Democrats produced figures seriously undermining the claims of Chris Woodhead, Ofsted's head, that inspections lead to better results in the classroom. The statistics revealed that 800 schools which had *not* been inspected achieved better exam results than 900 schools which had been.

Liberal Democrat education spokesman Don Foster called for an independent inquiry into the inspectors. With basic questions now being raised about what Ofsted achieves with its £150m, uproar will follow if its soon-to-be appointed ombudsman is given the job of carrying out the inquiry. Why? Because in a piece of weird logic, the choice of ombudsman is down to, er, Chris Woodhead.

JUST as it looked as if the Sandline affair and the relentless attacks on foreign secretary Robin Cook might be fading away, Michael Binyon of the *Times* produced a single paragraph which sent morale at the increasingly unhappy foreign office (FO) plummeting.

Binyon, the paper's diplomatic correspondent, indirectly quoted an unnamed official as saying: "West Africa does not attract the brightest and the best in the foreign office. Few of those dealing with Sierra Leone would be 'high fliers'; the chances of a cock-up were far likelier than a conspiracy."

Oh dear. This has caused outrage among the "slow stream" in the FO, the hard-working grunts who have no chance of making it to plum positions because they are female, have the wrong accent, went to the wrong public school and did not go to Oxbridge.

Some point the finger of suspicion at "fast streamer" Nigel Sheinwald, the foreign secretary's tightly-wound personal spokesman. He is in constant contact with Binyon and values the newspaperman as an important contact. But Sheinwald, faced with the almost impossible task of ensuring Cook hits the headlines for only the right reasons, is a deeply ambitious man; and it seems unlikely he would let a loose quote jeopardise his chances of grabbing a plum post when his term ends on 30 June.

The inquisition may well have to move on, eagerly stirring up the vendettas and resentments fostered by the FO's own particular system of apartheid.

Well-placed officials are now revealing that Cook is increasingly disillusioned with his lot and cannot even be bothered to indicate which of the papers in his red box he has read, something guaranteed to cause chaos at lower levels. Cook's private advisers now admit that trumpeting an ethical foreign policy was a grave mistake — an error the red-bearded lothario is unlikely ever to live down.

'Backbiter'

COMPLETE WALKER

THE connection between a British businessman and one of the biggest tax frauds in history has finally come to light, in spite of desperate attempts to keep it quiet.

The businessman in question is our old friend John Walker, the Plymouth-based designer of a "revolutionary" boat which uses an aircraft-like wing instead of conventional sails. Over the past 16 years John Walker and his wife Jean have persuaded thousands of small shareholders to invest £13m in their company Walker Wingsail Systems plc. But after all this time and money, only two of their £270,000 boats have been sold and neither is working properly (see *Eye* 947.)

In 1992, the *Daily Mail* reported that Walker Wingsail Systems Ltd, the forerunner of the plc, had been caught up in a $5bn tax fiddle organised by fraudsters in Canada. The scheme involved laundering large sums of money through various companies on both sides of the Atlantic, and then claiming huge tax credits for non-existent "research".

Walker sued for libel over the suggestion that he might have been involved, even unwittingly, in such a racket. The *Mail* settled out of court, giving him an apology plus an estimated £50,000 in damages and costs. But now an investigation by Westcountry TV, broadcast two weeks ago, has revealed that John Walker *was* connected with the scam: not through Walker Wingsail but through another company called Walker Research Ltd, which was wholly owned and controlled by John and Jean Walker. He says he was an innocent dupe who had no idea what was going on.

As part of the scam the fraudsters sent Walker Research half a million pounds. He forwarded most of it to a company in Guernsey, keeping the rest as part payment for a "research job" which never materialised. Walker neglected to mention this during his libel suit against the *Mail*. Nor did he tell shareholders in Walker Wingsail. A small group of them began to learn the truth only after failing to oust him from the company at last November's agm: a private detective was hired to go to Toronto, and came back with bundles of documents from the Canadian court archive which proved the Walker connection.

Red-faced executives at the *Mail* are now considering whether to sue Walker for their money back. They'll have to hurry: a third of Walker Wingsail's staff were laid off recently, and Walker sent a letter to shareholders two weeks ago begging for more funds to keep his dream afloat.

There is some embarrassment at the Design Council, too, which recently chose Walker Wingsail's boat as a potential exhibit in the Millennium Dome exhibition because, according to a gushing press release, "it displays forward thinking innovation in the design of its wing". The council claims to have taken "expert marine opinion", while refusing to say who the expert is.

Clearly the council has not seen an internal report produced by an engineering consultant hired by John Walker, which concluded that the boat is potentially unsafe, badly designed and lacking buoyancy. Rodney George, one of the only two customers to have bought a boat, found that "the centreboard mechanism broke down" and "the computer started going haywire — fortunately towards the end of the trip". He told Westcountry TV that, although he still had faith in the idea, "I would not buy another boat from John Walker".

If a Wingsail boat is chosen to appear in the Dome, perhaps it had better travel there by road.

"Stop thief! I want to apologise to you on behalf of the uncaring society that has made you what you are..."

MEDIA NEWS

NEW *World in Action* editor Jeff Anderson is confirming fears about the dumbing down of ITV's flagship current affairs show.

A week into the job he issued the following commissioning brief to the team working on last week's *The Price of Peace*, about the release of paramilitary prisoners as part of the Northern Ireland peace process: "Hundreds of psychos will be out of prison and back on the streets if people vote Yes in the referendum. This [*programme*] is relatively easy to do. It can be done — I have seen shorter versions on the news. What you do is to focus on four or five particularly vicious killers and remind people of their crimes. Talk to the relatives of their dead victims, or even some living victims minus various limbs, eyes, etc.

"We ask the question: should these murderers really be let out?"

Anderson is clearly convinced that a tabloid approach that would make MacKenzie or Littlejohn blush is the way to win Granada the contract to produce ITV's new 60-minute flagship current affairs programme, due to replace *WiA* later this year.

No doubt the man who will make the decision, ITV network centre current affairs supremo Steve Anderson, has been watching the new-style *World in Action* with interest. The fact that he happens to be Jeff Anderson's brother will clearly not influence him in any way. Meanwhile *World in Action* hacks are pessimistic. Anderson can expect four or five resignation letters on his desk as soon as those concerned have sorted out jobs elsewhere.

BRITISH Sky Broadcasting is clearing out the mountain of tacky and mainly foreign filth filling its computer network.

A memo to computer users at company headquarters sternly announces that a "very significant amount of... non business data, predominantly pornography" is clogging up the server disks. "The material in question is undoubtedly illegal, and therefore puts British Sky Broadcasting in legal jeopardy."

Of course were a celebrity to be found with unsavoury pornography on his hard disk, Sky might be expected to go town on the story. But at BSkyB such tawdry activities will for the moment go unpunished. Staff have been warned that anyone caught indulging in carnal cyberpleasure in future info-sweeps will risk being "reported to senior management for appropriate action". No doubt this means commissioning late night erotic drama on Sky Movies...

AFTER the modest wedding at Sudely Castle and a honeymoon at Butlins in Minehead, newly-weds Henry Dent-Brocklehurst and Lili Maltese will soon be getting back to work.

For Mrs Dent-Brocklehurst this means resuming a modelling career. She is, among other things, the Face of Prunes, and has graced many a glossy. But what will Henry be doing?

Though the media attending the wedding trumpeted his success as a "millionaire film producer", a search of the British Film Institute information library reveals that no Mr Dent-Brocklehurst is recorded as having been involved in any capacity in any production on record. How very strange!

TV

Vanessa (ITV)
Kilroy (BBC1)

WHERE Jerry leads, others must follow. Much has already been written of Jerry Springer's extraordinary daytime talk show — probably too much, as far as the producers of Vanessa and Kilroy are concerned.

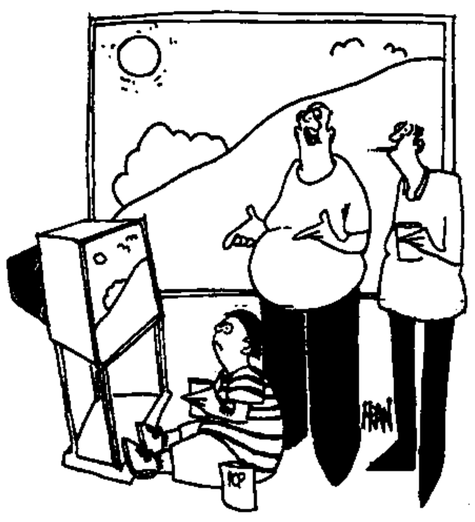
Each day, in ITV's once uncontroversial lunchtime slot, America's doyen of trash TV has been demonstrating that the lowest common denominator is even lower than we thought. Freaks, loons and weirdos queue up to outfreak and outloon each other, while a baying audience of fat people pronounces instant judgement. The overall impression is not so much of an accident waiting to happen as of an accident carefully planned to happen before the commercial break.

Last week, for example, on "I Want You Back", Debbie's best friend Wanda had stolen her husband Ray, and had now moved in with him. Debbie wanted Ray back, but Wanda thought Debbie should "get on with her life". What Wanda didn't know was that Ray was still sleeping with Debbie behind her back. What Debbie didn't know was that Wanda was pregnant with Ray's child. Springer put the three of them on stage, lit the blue touchpaper and withdrew.

How do you compete with that? You can't, obviously. Either British people don't do this sort of thing or, if they do, they keep remarkably quiet about it. This presents problems for the home-grown talk shows, which can see the way the wind is blowing and don't wish to follow *The Time The Place*, which was cancelled in March to make way for Springer. Already the British incumbents are beginning to look a little staid. Suddenly *Vanessa* and *Kilroy* are under pressure. Springer has set the pace. Can the others keep up?

Already both shows have reacted with a typical piece of American shorthand, the strapline in the bottom corner of the screen that describes, in eight words or less, what today's show is about. It's the sort of little touch that can make a struggling show seem up-to-date, but actually just allows the ruthless viewer to compare the various shows more directly.

So as Jerry gave us "I Want You Back", *Kilroy* offered "I'll



"I think it's important the kids learn about nature"

Never Love Again" (tales of the lovelorn) and *Vanessa* "Hunks For Hire!" (hair gel a-go-go). The following day Jerry had "He's No Good For You", *Kilroy* "Violent Fathers" and *Vanessa* "Get Rid Of Your Other Love... Now!" If all three are the same on any given day, you win the jackpot.

But Springer is influencing the substance as well as the style of the two British shows. One of the final editions of *The Time The Place* was about transsexuals, no doubt to show that they could do it too. Since then *Kilroy* has done transsexuals at least twice, and burly women with hands like shovels now crop up regularly in his audience. These things are hard to quantify, but arguments seem to have become fiercer, tears more frequent and Kilroy's tan more flagrantly implausible.

But at least Old Leathery can gesture in the direction of seriousness from time to time. Safely coddled in what remains of the BBC's public service remit, he can resist the more extreme tenets of Springerism, and at least once a week his show still throws up something resembling an interesting discussion. Vanessa Feltz has no such comfort zone. Thrust into the 9.30 slot vacated by *The Time The Place*, she has to deliver trivial downmarket bilge for morons, and like a trouper, deliver it she does.

Recalling Jimmy Webb's masterly lyric for "Macarthur Park" — surely no one on TV better resembles a cake left out in the rain — she has surged downmarket with energy and determination. Last week in a show entitled "My Husband's A Gangster... And I Don't Care!" she interviewed a diverting selection of the London underworld and their bedraggled molls. The audience, which may or may not have been full of undercover policemen, tried to look as though it wasn't there. A day later the theme was "I'm Too Scared To Marry My Man", in which yet more scarred thugs were served up for our delectation. God knows where they find them. Only God would want to know.

As yet no one has thrown a punch in *Kilroy* or *Vanessa*, but you feel it's only a matter of time. A few people, though, may want to throw a punch at Springer, and I'm sure most of us can think of two talk show hosts who would be first in that particular queue.

'Couch Potato'

LUVVIES

Working with (Howard) Barker is as excruciating as childbirth, one actress told me, but just as exhilarating. "He has a hold, a real attraction... I think going to bed with Howard must be like making love to Jesus."

FIACHRA GIBBONS
Guardian

CONTRIBUTOR: Fiona Allen.

THE inaugural meeting of BBC Forum — the new "interface" between staff and managers — was "a truly historic occasion", drooled the in-house propaganda rag *Ariel*.

Designed to replace confrontations between bosses and smart-arse union reps, it's supposed to offer "empowered" staff delegates a day in which to let director-general John Birt and chums know what programme-makers really think about the internal market, working conditions and wasteful management practices.

Alas the 20 delegates soon found the new democracy limiting. Almost the whole morning was lost to senior management "presentations" on how well they were doing: Birt on "the context in which the forum met"; Will Wyatt on his pledge "to deliver the best value to licence-payers"; and Ron Neil, chief executive of BBC Production, on "his successful first year".

All this ate into the time available for delegates to talk about wasteful management spending. Not that there would have been much revolutionary talk from the well-fed delegation. Forum organisers had already sent delegates on a lavish two-day training seminar at the Beeb's Wood Norton mansion (courtesy of licence-payers) "to prepare delegates for their roles on the newly elected body".

NOR was Ron Neill's lecture on "his successful first year" the last word. Another few hundred BBC licence-payers' fees were used to pay for wine, food, BBC musicians' and the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, which the megalomaniac booked for five hours last week to butter up more than 2,000 disgruntled members of a rapidly diminishing staff.

Unlike the rapidly growing bureaucracy, many programme-makers' jobs in his Production empire are being axed or turned to short-term contracts. Questions to Neill on job cuts, redundancy, the future of the Beeb, etc, were craftily left unanswered as "time was running out".

Instead there was much diversion. Free travel to the theatre was provided from the regions. Flashy lunchboxes were handed out; and the climax was a competition to win World Cup and Wimbledon tickets. The BBC Orchestra played 20 BBC signature tunes whose titles staff were asked to guess. The response was such that a handful of entries literally flooded in. As the proles departed, cries of "Trebles all round!" could be heard echoing across Covent Garden...

BBC WORLD

THE destruction of the news information service at Broadcasting House (*Eyes passim*) is being keenly felt by hacks in radio and television.

The heroic, poorly paid researchers at the new streamlined research library at Television Centre cannot cope with increased demand for information from the growing number of terrestrial television, radio, Continuous News, BBC Online and cable "customers" — not to mention hundreds of requests for cuttings from managers facing programme review meetings.

The 21 minutes spent on hold by a *Today* producer while the queue ahead fell from five to four is typical. But now producers are finding that the calls ahead can *increase* — from one to as many as eight. The current record is held by the *World Tonight* assistant editor who spent an hour and five minutes trying to get through before giving up. How long before an unchecked fact leads to a libel that makes the cost of a decent library look like chicken feed?

NOOKS and CORNERS

"ALL Temples, Altars, Churches, and Religious Ceremonies, are the Badges and Proofs of the Fallen, Guilty State of Man!" No, not a recent pronouncement by George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury. Nor a statement from the Bicycle Shed Tendency in the Church of England — that triumphant modern enthusiasm which regards all church buildings as so much "plant" and longs to reduce them to the same state of bland cosy mediocrity.

In fact my quote comes from a book of 1844 by the Rev Francis Close, perpetual curate at Cheltenham and later Dean of Carlisle, written as a salvo during the great controversy over the restoration of the Round Church in Cambridge. And now we have a new controversy centred on the curious and venerable building.

The Round Church — properly the Church of the Holy Sepulchre — is one of five surviving medieval churches in England built to a circular plan following the taking of Jerusalem in the first crusade. The circular Norman nave still stands, much restored, but was later enlarged with a Gothic chancel with north and south aisles.

In the story of the Anglican Church, the historical significance of the Round Church centres on the 1840s. In 1841 part of the long-neglected and decrepit structure collapsed, provoking a full and drastic restoration by the Cambridge Camden Society.

The work was carried out in 1841-43 by the architect Anthony Salvin. But it caused a great fuss. Following a visit by Queen Victoria in 1843, the Rev Richard Faulkner, the litigious and usually absentee incumbent, decided to challenge aspects of the model restoration carried out at the expense of others, arguing that the introduction of a stone altar and credence table was contrary to the canons of the Church of England.

This was rejected by the consistory court in 1855 but the court of arches found in his favour the following year. Out went the stone altar. And out went the Cambridge Camden Society: so heated had the affair become, with antiquarianism hopelessly confused with religious partisanship and the likes of Mr Close publishing sermons thundering that "*The Restoration of Churches is the Restoration of Popery*", that the society was dissolved, to be reconstituted in London as the Ecclesiological Society.

But the whole controversy was of immense significance both in the history of architecture and the history of the Church of England.

Today the new furnishings by Salvin, together with the wooden communion table and chairs introduced by Faulkner, largely survive as an instructive totality in what is, in essence, a new Victorian church. But not for long, if the present congregation has its way.

The Round Church is now used as the Cambridge Christian Heritage Centre. Bookstalls clutter the ambulatory of the round nave while there is an exhibition in the centre. That would be fine if it were not that the north aisle of the chancel is given over to a brass rubbing centre, while the rest of the church is full of junk. And now reordering is proposed.

Although £130,000 needs to be spent on the roof, the congregation thinks it more important to convert the north and south aisles into a bookshop, leaving only the tiny chancel for worship. This means throwing out Anthony Salvin's unusual poppy-head benches and stalls, carefully designed to the specifications of the Cambridge Camden Society.

Why so little space left for worship in this ancient and famous building? Well, the congregation now also has St Andrew's, a mediocre Gothic revival church of the 1840s and large enough for any number of bookshops to be put in there. But, when it comes to both reorderings and redundancy, the modern Church of England has long followed the policy of not just spoiling one church when two can be ruined.

This commercialisation and reordering of the Round Church was to have been considered at a consistory court as the changes are being opposed, very properly, by English Heritage. And in favour? Well, surprise, surprise: the congregation has called on the expertise of Anthony Blee (*Eyes passim ad nauseam*). But, this time, as the C of E can no longer be trusted to do the right thing, the secretary of state has decided to call the case in and hold a proper public inquiry in which evidence is taken seriously. The consistory court hearing has been abandoned; so perhaps one of the most special and crucial architectural monuments of Anglicanism may now be left alone.

I AM always being told I am too negative and destructive, mindlessly opposed to change. What about the exciting, positive things happening in the architectural firmament?

Well, here is something cheering. In 1970 two spans of Cleveden Pier collapsed and the iron structure, opened in 1869, was threatened with extinction. But, after a 28-year battle and despite applications for demolition, the bankruptcy of the contractors and many other obstacles, local supporters never gave up and finally, last Saturday, the pier was reopened.

Hooray and well done: it is a small but splendid triumph, helped by financial support from English Heritage and the National Heritage Memorial Fund. And, to clinch things, Cleveden Pier was given £475,000 of lottery money. Far too much, surely: why spend public money on repairing a Victorian pier in deference to local enthusiasm, when hundreds of millions can be blown on a plastic tent that no more than 2 percent of the population seems to want? But I am becoming a bore on that subject.

'Piloti'

TALES FROM THE ARABIAN NIGHTS

Chapter 94

MOHAMED "Al" Fayed is one of the few men in the world who actually boasts of having a tiny penis. Perhaps to make up for this deficiency, he keeps a two-foot plastic dildo in his desk at Harrods; and on Michael Cole's birthday in 1994 he presented the pompadoured PR man with a cake in the shape of a giant erect penis.

Fayed is, in short, obsessed by sex. "How is your pussy?" he asked one secretary. A female Harrods lawyer was subjected to questions such as "Did you have a good fuck on Sunday?" or "How many men did you have over the weekend?"

His personal staff are regularly employed for their looks rather than their skills: one secretary, who worked in his fifth-floor offices for more than a year, couldn't even type or spell.

Other secretaries have been flown to Paris, plied with gifts and champagne and then sexually propositioned. In October 1993 he took no fewer than four of them to the Duke and Duchess of Windsor's villa, gave them £100 each and demanded: "Who is going to sleep with me tonight?"

Fayed also takes his pick of the young management trainees at Harrods. One 17-year-old school-leaver, Miss D, who began a two-year training course at the store, was quickly poached by Fayed for his private office. Before she started, however, she had to undergo an examination by a Harley Street doctor "to see if you're clean".

Fayed asked Miss D to regard him as a father or "papa". And he took his paternal duties seriously: first there were hugs and kisses; then he started brushing against her breasts and feeling her bottom. He also offered cash inducements, trying to place a wad of money down the front of her blouse.

One evening Fayed summoned her to his flat in Park Lane where she found him wearing a dressing gown. After leading her into a room he described as his private "nightclub", he locked the door, offered her champagne, put his hand on her thigh and said: "Come to papa, have a cuddle." Eventually, and with difficulty, she persuaded the revolting old lecher to let her out.

Many other women — all young and attractive, most of them blonde — have been "received for interview" at Park Lane. The visitors usually remain closeted away with Fayed for about two hours, after which, if the pharaoh is in generous mood, security staff are instructed to hand them bundles of money in (surprise, surprise) brown envelopes.

Some of the lucky — or unlucky — ones have even been provided with accommodation. One of his "personal assistants" was installed in an apartment at 60 Park Lane, in the same block as Fayed's flat. One night she accidentally set off an alarm while leaving his room at 4am. When accosted by the security guard on duty, she claimed that she had been "delivering sandwiches" to satisfy her employer's appetite.

Replenishing his lunchbox, no doubt.

Diana balls

"Stick a set of Diana stamps on a strip of cardboard from a tights pack and trim to shape to make a lovely bookmark."

— Readers' tips in Best magazine (submitted by Digby Dent)

"*Live and Let Di*, written and directed by Catherine McCargo, is set in the early hours of 31 August 1997. Unable to sleep, one by one the Jackson family gather in the living room to watch TV as the news filters through from Paris that Diana, Princess of Wales, has been involved in a car accident. The tension reaches a climax as Steve, the son, considers whether or not to `come out' to his father."

— Programme for Lyric Theatre, Belfast (submitted by Ciaran O'Maolain)

"Applications are invited from well-qualified graduates with a good first degree in a relevant discipline for a research studentship on **Diana Princess of Wales As Media Icon,** under the supervisory direction of Dr Jude Davies... The successful applicant will be expected to be familiar with debates over identity and representation in both theoretical and popular forms, and be able to relate those debates to Diana representations. No theoretical orthodoxy will be enforced, but it is expected that various feminisms, cultural materialism, and both structuralist and post-structuralist theories of semiotics and signification will be useful in framing the thesis. Applications which strongly utilise new computer technologies (for example, the Internet) are encouraged."

— Announcement from King Alfred's College, Winchester

DOING THE ROUNDS

Focus on Scotland

AS THE government's misguided waiting list pledge suffers another blow (up 147,000 instead of down by 100,000), health secretary Frank Dobson, aping Virginia Bottomley's embarrassing "good news unit", has spent £86,000 on staff for a "rebuttal unit".

The rebuttal officer, a career civil servant, is charged with "making more systematic and orderly the process of responding to criticism of government policy". Perhaps he or she could start by explaining the policy on cataract operations in Scotland.

The public accounts committee has just reported that waits are so long many patients are blind long before they get near an operating theatre. A 1997 target that 80 percent of operations should be done as day cases failed miserably (43 percent were); and the Scottish NHS management executive was so pessimistic about reaching the target it didn't even bother to include it in contracts between health boards and trusts.

There were also large variations in equality of access to surgery, with poor access in poorer areas; and because there was no systematic check for cataracts, some patients were blind before even going on the waiting list.

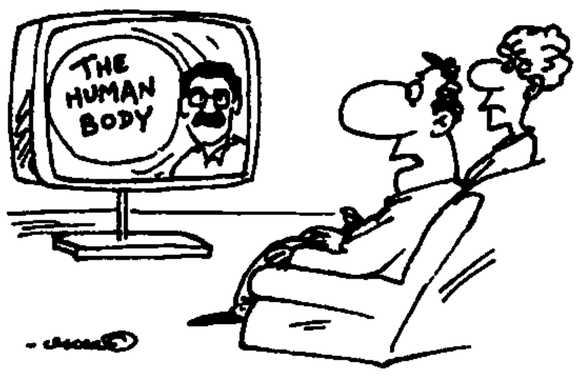
Given the obvious difficulties this poses in getting to and from hospital, it seems logical to ensure that future eye units are as accessible as possible. Alas, Lothian health board wants to move the Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion (PAEP), currently in central Edinburgh, to St John's hospital in West Lothian. This is 20 miles away from the majority of patients and takes 90 minutes to get to on a bus. If you can see one to catch.

The PAEP is the only purpose-built eye hospital in Scotland, providing specialist services for Lothian, Borders, Fife and the nearby Royal Hospital for Sick Children. It treats more complex cases and therefore its surgery is more costly than other centres. However, proposals to build a new theatre for more simple surgery have been drawn up — a far cheaper option than building facilities to cope with difficult cases at St John's. Indeed, when PAEP tried to move simple day cases to St John's and Borders in the past, 20 percent came back labelled "too complex". PAEP has a full range of specialist equipment and, more importantly, staff — few of whom want to relocate.

So why move at all? The announcement was let slip by Trevor Jones, Lothian health board chairman, at a public meeting, but no explanation was given. St John's hospital was built as a political gesture by the previous administration but has remained half empty for much of its existence. Transfer of eye services could be seen as a political sweetener to West Lothian politicians, to keep their hospital as an integrated trust. Other theories are that Edinburgh city council wants the PAEP site to extend St Thomas of Aquinas School, or that it will be used as a parking lot for the proposed private finance initiative (PFI) funded and all new Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh (RIE).

The PFI deal, funding the RIE to the tune of £200m, is due to be signed next week if the British Medical Association, the Scottish National party and the trade union Unison fail to stop it. They would prefer a deferment at least until a Scottish parliament is elected next year. The major concern is that the PFI providers, keen to maximise the return, are dictating the structure, bed numbers and service provision of what would be the largest hospital development in Europe.

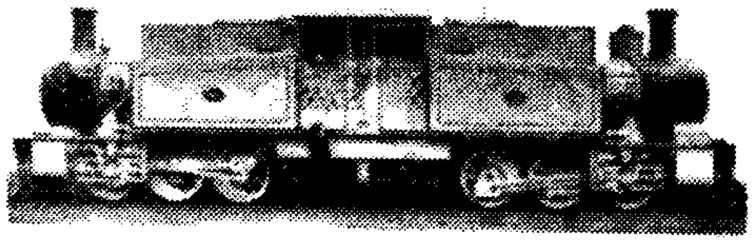
Dermatology beds will be cut from 41 to three; and adult ophthalmology — even in the absence of a move of the PAEP — will be cut from 24 to five. The PFI financiers are doubtless keen to maximise bed occupancy even if that means under-provision. Any extra treatment — increasingly likely with Mr Dobson's frantic waiting list reductions — would then require renegotiating the contract with the PFI consortium or farming patients to private hospitals. Either way, very expensive for the NHS.



"Thanks to the miracle of modern technology, we can now actually see a man talking through his arse"

PS: Paul G. Richardson MD, an adult oncologist from Boston, points out that the decision to stop the US Breast Cancer Prevention Trial 14 months early and publish the results (*Eye* 949) was not taken by the researchers but by an independent monitoring committee in view of the highly statistically significant 45 percent reduction in breast cancer incidence in those women who received Tamoxifen. This is a mightily impressive result, yet medicine is littered with examples of trials that stopped early because of good results which failed to be realised in the long term. I hope I'm wrong.

M.D.



SIGNAL FAILURES

InterCity RIP

PERFORMANCE statistics for the privatised railway reflect how the once-famous InterCity system is falling apart.

The latest bulletin from the office of passenger rail franchising (Opraf) shows that in 1997/98 punctuality worsened on every one of the seven former InterCity franchises except the southern half of Virgin West Coast (where punctuality is still worse than in the last year before BR's fragmentation).

All bar the Gatwick Express and Midland Main Line failed to meet even the soft passenger's charter target (90 percent of trains to arrive at destinations no more than 10 minutes late; while figures overlook Sundays and one-off timetable changes), let alone passengers' expectations of an express service with high fares.

The only big ex-InterCity franchise to have retained the old branding is Great Western Trains. Sadly, its performance last year was a disgrace to the InterCity concept and the memory of Brunel's Great Western Railway. Even franchising director John O'Brien, spin doctor-general to the passenger train companies, had to admit GWT's average of 84.7 percent of trains "on time" was unsatisfactory.

The franchisees seem to regard punctuality as an optional element of the overall package and keep finding more pressing things to tackle. Management time is spent on new staff uniforms, train liveries and gimmicks in first class, while the biggest area of concern to passengers, punctuality, is slipping.

GWT is considering a massage service for first class passengers; Great North Eastern Railway frets about uniforms, new bags and negotiating with unions over who has to wear a hat and the vital matter of when to wear the waistcoats that come with their new summer uniforms. Meanwhile, punctuality on GNER is down to 87.9 percent — a shameful figure for a wholly modernised route.

Midland Main Line, whose punctuality dropped to 90.2 percent, has devoted management resources to upsetting first class customers by serving free meals only to passengers who have bought a new alternative ticket — which costs the same as first class.

But passengers ain't seen nothing yet. The dumbing down of InterCity will enter another dimension when some franchisees take possession of the new trains they have ordered. To save money and keep open their competitive options for the future, GWT, MML and Anglia Railways chose a type of train designed for local services or cash-strapped provincial ones. Passengers accustomed to comfortable InterCity carriages may find themselves assailed for hours by noise and vibrations from the whopping great engines strapped under the carriage floors.

'Dr B. Ching'

DOWN ON THE FARM

SUBSIDY modulation may sound like harmless Eurospeak but it is causing much distress in agribusiness circles. The idea that it might be possible to pay less subsidy to bigger farms has finally made it into the next round of talks on the reform of the common agricultural policy (CAP).

The actual proposal is mild. The first £80,000 of subsidy would be fully paid; the next £80,000 cut by 20 percent; and after that by 25 percent. Few stock farms, and only around 7 percent of arable farms, would be affected, but not by enough to threaten the long winter holiday in Barbados.

Land owning and farm union chiefs, though, are revolted at any advantage being given to smaller family farms. Referred to by one as "the policy from hell", the main complaints are that it would penalise Europe's most efficient farmers, turn the CAP into a social policy and have "dire implications for employed labour".

Supporters of modulation point out that such "efficiency" should surely need less subsidy, that the CAP has always expressed social aims and that the employment line is a bad joke. And there are plenty of supporters. The Farmers Union of Wales, Family Farms Association, Young Farmers and other groups representing smaller farms have all strongly criticised the negative reaction of the National Farmers' Union (NFU) leadership.

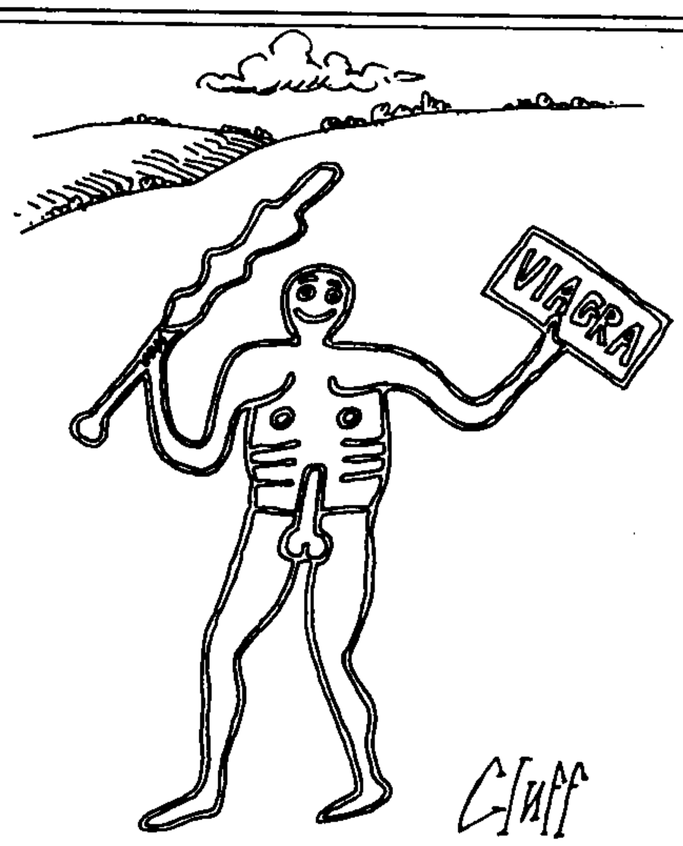
More surprising, in an organisation that discourages dissent, is the backlash from NFU members and even, in the bolshy South-West, from branch chairmen. More than half NFU members farm less than 100 acres, and many resent the presumption of their views by an undemocratic and high-handed leadership.

Nothing better exposes the division over the future of farming. The establishment, represented by new NFU leader "Biotech Ben" Gill and farm minister Jack Cunningham, share a shining vision: an industry of big, efficient units competing on a world stage, run by well-capitalised businessmen and powered by high inputs and every kind of new technology (with large dollops of EU aid, of course). In this dream smaller farms, always referred to as "inefficient", are seen as an obstacle to the expansion of proper businesses.

This view was neatly summed up by the chairman of the Country Landowners' Association (CLA) in Devon, David Fursdon. In language eerily like that used to justify the enclosure acts, he said that supporting unviable farms by modulating in their favour would merely encourage the older generation to hang on instead of retiring, or would lead to two families trying to make a living on a farm too small to provide it.

This explains the unhealthy enthusiasm the NFU and Scottish NFU show for a proposed early retirement scheme, a condition of which is that any land must be amalgamated with another holding. As *Farmer's Weekly* says, this is a means of "removing less efficient producers". The Farmers Union of Wales, however, is horrified, and asks how new entrants are expected to start in farming. And there's the difference: the NFU doesn't see the slightest need for new entrants.

'Gumboot'



Rotten Boroughs

Hillingdon

RECENT election celebrations didn't last long for Hillingdon Tory Mark Chester, who beat the council's Labour leader Paul Harmsworth by 19 votes.

Soon after the result, it emerged that when signing his election forms Chester had forgotten to mention the short spell of porridge he did (under his real name of Mark O'Shea) at Her Majesty's pleasure in 1995.

Then, he was convicted for lying in court about his exploits as a drunken driver. But this wasn't O'Shea/Chester's first brush with the law. In 1985 he was convicted of assaulting Inspector Knacker and ordered to do 100 hours' community service.

Chester has now resigned.

Leeds

WHEN Neil Taggart was a radical young backbench Labour councillor in Leeds, he keenly supported a local campaign to keep open the popular Scott Hall School.

He told a public meeting he would personally lie down in the road rather than see the school become anything other than an educational establishment. Alas, the school closed without Coun Taggart dirtying his suit; West Yorkshire police authority bought the site and built a huge £3.9m 16-cell police station on it.

The station opened in May — no doubt a source of pride to the chairman of the police authority responsible for such an educational project, one Coun Neil Taggart.

Sheffield

LABOUR not only lost five seats to the Lib Dems in Sheffield in the elections, but the party saw council leader Mike Bower unseated by a massive margin.

For many years Bower slavishly implemented, and some might say anticipated, many of "new" Labour's rightwing strategies. So it was bizarre when, explaining the embarrassing defeat in "Labour's Heartland", national party spin-doctors claimed the losses were merely the rejection by the electorate of "Old Labour" and thus some kind of bizarre endorsement of Tony Blair.

Apart from simply being untrue (Sheffield council has been a flagship for "new" Labour values), local Labour party members were so panicked when the council's new leader and deputy were elected, they immediately told the press that the prospect of losing control to the Lib Dems gave them a very clear message from "the people". In future, Sheffield Labour group would "get back to basics".

Meanwhile David Blunkett, the MP for Sheffield Brightside, put his own spin on the defeat. In a carefully crafted speech to the South London Industrial Mission, he said local turn-out was alarmingly low. "Some of it may have been [down to] the culture of contentment." Treble Boddingtons all round!

Doncaster

LABOUR's scuffle to retain some seats in the stronghold of Doncaster after the Donnygate scandal ended with the party losing seven of the 21 seats fought.

Coun Doug Axe, sacked by the "new" Labour regional panel, split the vote in the Mexborough ward allowing a Lib Dem to scrape home. At his panel interviews Axe was asked to repeat the phrase: "I will not say anything to damage the party." He was deselected after two farcical interviews because of his "apparent inability to distinguish between proper press comment and press comment which might damage the Party".

Meanwhile, since the election more problems have been unearthed and leisure services chief Peter Aitken is under investigation for "serious mismanagement". He worked at Moray council until 1996 where he was suspended for five months over an expenses fiddle and extended leaves of absence. He was censured and left to join Doncaster where history may be repeating itself.

Paisley

"WE'VE been called out more times than to the worst pub in Paisley," announced a senior Renfrewshire policeman, referring to the local council chamber.

Almost unbelievably, police have been called 21 times in the past two years to referee near punch-ups between councillors. According to McKnacker the record of 13 red cards is held by Independent councillor Paul Mack, who was expelled from Labour after assaulting his girlfriend (*Eyes passim*).

Glasgow

LABOUR councillor Susan Baird is already embroiled in sleaze before she takes up her new office as Glasgow's lord provost in place of scandal-ridden Pat Lally (*Eyes passim*).

Baird accumulated housing rent arrears of £300, some of which were incurred when she was previously lord provost (1988-92), while her Labour council pursued tenants with arrears of only £100. Funnily enough Baird was not pursued.

Nor was Coun Madge O'Neill, who owed nearly £800 while chairing the committee that ruled on evictions of defaulting tenants' rent. Luckily she was never forced to take the difficult decision to evict herself.

When Baird was asked why she hadn't paid on time she claimed she was too busy. Just the person to rid Glasgow of its sleazy image.

Anglesey

MORE from junketing and nepotism-friendly Anglesey (*Eye* 948), where council chief executive Leon Gibson said he would be happy to meet the public to discuss such matters if such an occasion were organised. It was — and 700 angry islanders turned up. There was one spare seat, though: Mr Gibson's. He said he had a previous engagement.

Gibson has resisted calls for his immediate resignation but says he might consider early retirement at the end of the millennium. By then his retirement lump sum will be more than £120,000, and his annual pension nearly £50,000. A thousand islanders are threatening to withhold council tax if Gibson doesn't resign now.

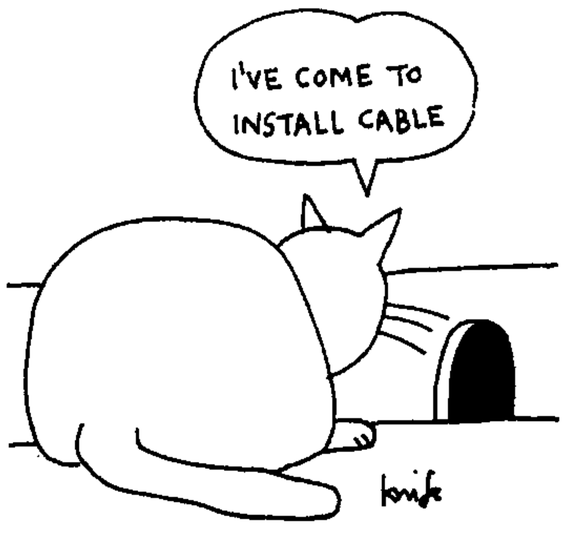
Meanwhile housing director John Arthur Jones has been charged with nine offences relating to intimidation of witnesses and attempts to pervert the course of justice during a police inquiry into housing and council tax benefit scams. Jones enjoyed a golfing break in Florida earlier this year with a long-standing chum, Det Insp Roy Gregson. Gregson has been admonished for accompanying Jones on the trip, although Knacker stresses that Gregson is not involved in current inquiries.

Southwark

NO SOONER had Labour won a resounding victory in Southwark (it was returned with an overall majority of just two), than its councillors voted to increase their leader Niall Duffy's pay by an inflation-busting 125 percent.

Duffy will receive the rise with immediate effect, his post commanding £24,000 a year, up from £10,700. Duffy joined other Labour councillors to vote for his pay rise, yet Labour's manifesto in Southwark failed to mention that rises for the winners were the priority.

Not to be outdone Labour councillors who voted for Duffy's increase have voted for pay increases for themselves as well.



Pseuds Corner

The World Cup ticket cannot be thought of simply as a printed bit of paper. It is the witness to a happening... with its tints of yellow and blue, its images of footballs against a starry sky, this ticket is a symbol of universal values.

The Times

But Camille Paglia, "post-feminist" critic of American academia, seems to see a darker rationale for the fading of masculinity.

"The erection is the last gasp of modern manhood," she opines. "If men can't continue to produce erections, they're going to evolve themselves right out of the human species. I want men to really examine why they need this pill. It's like the steel they would get if they were at war."

Daily Telegraph

I searched for more than Tabitha's old-fashioned beauty but I don't know if I succeeded.

Of all vanities, I most readily concede overweening pride in my care of English. Yet it is not my place to pretend to a detached commentary on my own work. The painting should be utterance enough.

MICHAEL REYNOLDS
(on his portrait of Tabitha Barker)
Royal Society of Portrait Painters 1998 catalogue

The sculpture is a bronze cast of that most gross product of the kebab shop, the doner spit, where the reconstituted meat revolves continuously to evenly grill the outer surface which is then sliced into ghastly shavings for consumption. Bronze is an unusual material, both for kinetic sculpture — the piece slavishly rotates — and this ignoble subject. Its almost abstract, monumental form nods at and makes mischief with the organic abstraction of British sculptors such as Moore, Hepworth *et al*.

KATE BERNARD
Flyer for "Keith Coventry New Works"

Bruce: one syllable that can be as iconic as Lee or as ironic as Forsythe within a single thought. It could be forthwith, as simple as a bravura hemline.

Dazed & Confused

The body of the Angel [of the North] is trapped. It exists between vulnerability and strength. It is a millennial work witnessing the transition between the industrial and the information ages. This is not a logo, symbol, or even a representation in the traditional sense. It is based on reality: a moment of lived time in which my body was registered in plaster, a moment when biological time was captured in geological time.

ANTONY GORMLEY
British Airways *High Life* Magazine

CONTRIBUTORS: David Nolan, Malcolm Mort, Harry Mount, Ian Penman, Paul Taylor, Ron Florescu.

£10 paid for entries

Letters

Joined up writing

Sir,

Your correspondent P.T. Hill (EYE 950) states that the reason only a tiny proportion of Roman Catholics have ever joined the RUC is that potential recruits have been put off by a Republican campaign of murder, threat and intimidation. I doubt this is true. The same dangers were faced by the large proportion of Protestants (92 percent) who make up the force's membership. They joined up anyway.

Yours faithfully,
R. FLEMING,

Channel Islands.

A Lawson unto himself

Sir,

I wouldn't normally bother complaining over inaccuracies about me in your colourful new organ — because I'd soon develop writer's cramp and most of them are quite funny anyway.

But your bizarre suggestion that SUNDAY TELEGRAPH Editor, Dominic Lawson, has been feeding me stories is too ridiculous to ignore. Dominic and I share the same prep school, the same building, and a belief that we would rather impale ourselves on red hot pokers than pass over a good exclusive story to a rival newspaper.

The only thing he has fed me, unfortunately, is a good lunch.

Yours faithfully,
PIERS MORGAN,

Editor, the Mirror.

Lookalike

Gazza **Jefferson**

Sir,

Has anyone noticed the uncanny resemblance between Paul Gascoigne and Thomas Jefferson, the one-time American president?

Whilst Paul, or "Gazza" as he is familiarly known, has shown the world an admirable example of tireless dedication to the good of his country, Jefferson was known to be the epitome of the irresponsible lout who sets a very poor image of his countrymen abroad with foul gestures to the press and even acts of violence to his young bride for which he needed therapy.

Yours etc,
MICHAEL CLARK,

Tewin, Herts.

Nudge nudge, wank wank

Sir,

MD's article on impotence treatments seemed timely and well informed. Do your readers realise, though, that the popular Caverject is manufactured by Upjohn? And is the impotence specialist at Doncaster really called Sister Biggins? Sid James will never die!

Carry On Shagging,
GRAHAM PORTER,

Cottingham.

Censory deprivation

Sir,

I was reliably informed by both the TODAY programme (R4) and a letter to the DAILY TELEGRAPH recently that, with the introduction of the internet to "approximately 800 schools and sixth form colleges", there would be no way to prevent the "children" from accessing pornography.

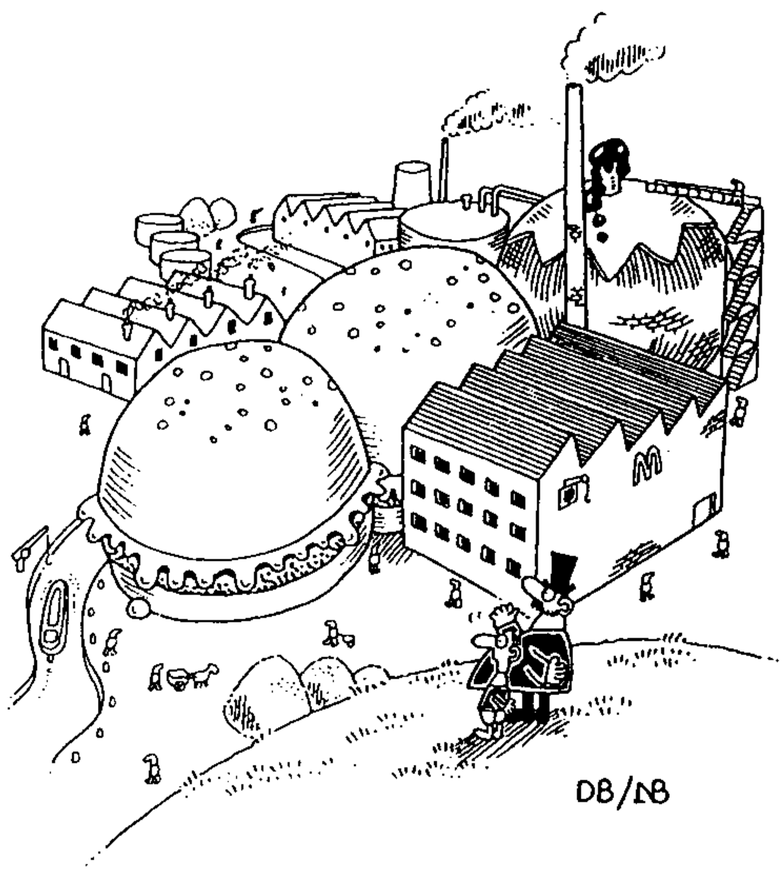
However, EYE 949 relates that Carter Fuck & Co had no such difficulty in preventing GreenNet making SAMWU press releases unavailable to those same pupils.

Obviously our children's morals must be protected and a line must be drawn somewhere. Naked Bodies — Yes! Workers'/Environmental Rights — No!!

KEITH STANSBIE,

Wigan.

NEW OLD SAYINGS



Where there's Mac there's brass

Corked whine

Sir,

I was thrilled to make it to the pages of your august organ (World of Whines, EYE 950), despite one or two inaccuracies. (Why let the facts get in the way of a good story? Ed.)

I have always been led to believe that if I am offered a whine (sic) to taste in a restaurant I have the right to refuse it if it's not up to scratch. After all, why else taste it?

On that evening at Cole's restaurant, the manageress (the owner's wife), Maddy Cole, did not share this view. What's more, she threatened to call the police if we did not pay for the sub-standard bottle!

Potential customers might like to know that Cole's has a new line in "remote wine tasting". On consulting her husband, Mark, on the phone that evening (he wasn't there), Ms Cole was assured that there was absolutely nothing wrong with the bottle we had tasted. I know we are in Bill Gates' Utopian world of remote IT, but this beggars belief!

Don't cancel the subscription. Pip! Pip!

Regards,
ALICE KING,

Via e-mail.

Alami bells

Sir,

I reply to your correspondent Mr Alex Newall (Foot in it? EYE 949) who implies that Samar Alami must have been rightly convicted of the Israeli embassy bombing because she had acknowledged she had hidden small guns (never used, and in one case, unusable) in a relative's empty flat.

Your correspondent does not mention that these were kept by her for another person who had feared an assassination attempt. Nor does he mention that her family's friend, a distinguished Palestinian cartoonist, El Ali, in fact was assassinated and that that happened in London.

Even more misleadingly, Mr Newall suggests it is sinister for a Palestinian to be deeply interested in all the workings of the Israeli state. Yes, Samar Alami did go to a meeting addressed by Shamir, advertised as "All Welcome". Yes, she did send off for a Jewish Year Book in the name of a previous occupant of her flat, to whom the invitation to purchase the year book had been addressed. Yes, she did hoard clippings on every subject under the sun, including on all aspects of the labyrinthine politics of the Middle East, focused not only on Israel but on the entire Arab world.

The openness and naivety of Samar's small activities were the very aspects of their case that helped to convince me that they were completely inconsistent with the sophistication, motivation and mindset demanded by the successful accomplishing of a major assault on an embassy carried out in the heart of London in the middle of the day.

Yours faithfully,
(Ms) ABIDA ASLAM.

China service

Sir,

Slicker may know all the intrigues in the City, but his piece on Ewan Launder's extradition to Hong Kong (EYE 949) suggests he is rather vague about what is going on further east. He appears to be confusing the legal system of the Chinese mainland with that of Hong Kong. Perhaps he has not heard of "one country, two systems".

The fact is that, with the exception of a few hotly-debated cases which focus on the constitutional relationship between Hong Kong and the rest of China, Hong Kong's legal system continues to bear more similarity to the British one from which it derives than to that of the mainland. As such, Mr Launder will find himself facing not "injustice Chinese-style", but an impartial jury and a presumption that he is innocent until proven guilty.

Regards,
ROD PARKES,

Hong Kong.

Curse of Gnome?

Sir,

Your devastating exposé of England's rotten boroughs appears not to have had the desired impact on the electorate. In "the shambles that is Labour-controlled Coventry", the ruling party lost a mere two seats (out of 47) to the opposition. Meanwhile, the much-reviled Westminster Tories **increased** *their number by two. Richard Course's blundering offensiveness did not prevent the addition of three more councillors to the Enfield Labour group, whose embattled comrades in Hackney notched up five net gains.*

Is your esteemed journal's condemnation the kiss of life? Or have the education services in these boroughs failed so abysmally that local voters are incapable of reading the wisdom which you so frequently impart?

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE ROWELL,

Magdalen College, Oxford.

MARY RIDDELL

New Statesman

If it's true that men only prefer watching football to having sex because football takes longer, then the answer lies in their own hands

I-SPY

Hampton in Arden, near Coventry

Submitted by Alex Fraser & Anon. *£10 paid for similar submissions. (SAE required for return of photographs. No transparencies.)*

Kent

■ amount provided by the IMF as an emergency package to support the Indonesian economy

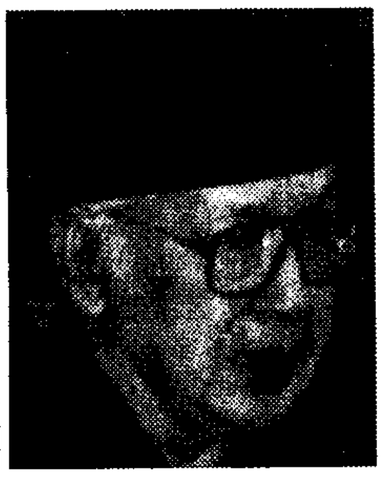
Number crunchings

£20 million

■ amount estimated to have been accumulated by President Suharto and his family during his rule

Lookalike

Old Boss



New Boss

Sir,

I couldn't help noticing a disconcerting resemblance between the recently deposed leader of Indonesia, President Suharto, and his pro-democracy replacement Mr Habibie. It is presumably fortunate for the people of Indonesia that they are not related.

Yours truly,
S.M. FOX,

London N4.

'Neuf said

Sir,

So Minette Marrin sees herself "as some sort of soixante-huitard", (DAILY TELEGRAPH, 14 May). Should we be thankful that the événements weren't delayed by a year?

Yours faithfully,
R.G. HART,

Gosport, Hants.

The Good, the Bad, the Embargoed

Sir,

I am surprised that more people have not come forward to praise the government's alleged involvement in supplying arms to Sierra Leone. Without arms, his classic trio of 1960s spaghetti westerns would be sorry things indeed, Mr Eastwood's career would have surely lapsed into obscurity and contemporary culture would be deprived of one of its most potent icons (etc, etc).

DARREN GIDDINGS,

Via e-mail.

Myths and Monsters exhibition entertains and eductaes

Westminster Independent

Colemanballs

£10 paid for contributions

"Gay sex at 16 is to be law."
PAUL HUTTON, Xfm News
(Dominic Beddow)

"Unicycle hockey could be just the sport for you, but you'll have to get your skates on if you want to take part..."
Sports Presenter, Channel 5
(Renée Ware)

"The match will be shown on Match of the Day this evening. If you don't want to know the result, look away now as we show you Tony Adams lifting up the cup for Arsenal."
STEVE RIDER, BBC1
(Dominic Birch)

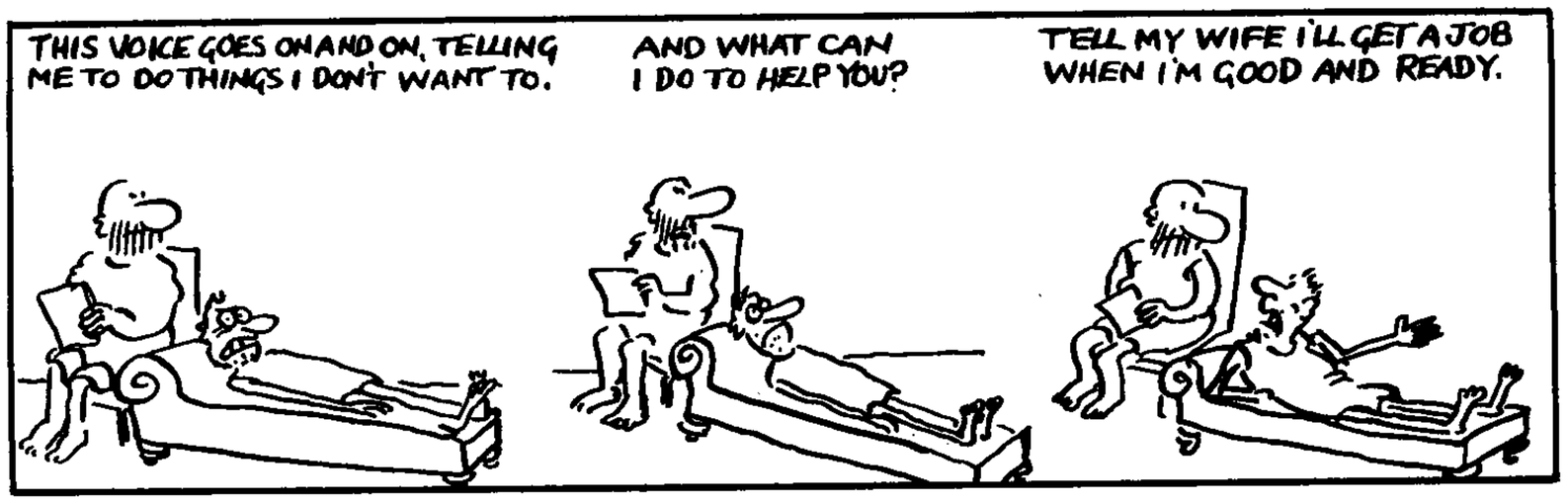
"We start today in Belfast where the big guns are being wheeled out for the campaign for a yes vote in the referendum on the peace deal."
SYBIL RUSCOE, Five Live
(Danny McConnell)

"And later we'll go over to Rome, where three paintings have been stolen by Van Gogh and Cezanne..."
JAMES PROCTOR, Five Live
(Danny McConnell)

"After the ceasefire in Ireland tourism went shooting up."
JIM WALLACE MP, Radio Scotland
(John Hallett)

HOM SAP

BY DAVID AUSTIN


THIS VOICE GOES ON AND ON, TELLING ME TO DO THINGS I DON'T WANT TO.
AND WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP YOU?
TELL MY WIFE I'LL GET A JOB WHEN I'M GOOD AND READY.

Aggro-Business

Sir,

As an Ulster farmer I am writing regarding the incredulous load of shite which appeared in Edward Spalton's letter (EYE 950) in response to your article concerning meat and bone meal animal feed (EYE 949).

He first says, "To my knowledge good quality Meat & Bone Meal was regarded as a wholesome ingredient for animal feed throughout the sixties and seventies." Absolute shite. I've been farming here in the Glens of Antrim since the late 1940s and have never heard anyone from the department of agriculture, vets or anyone else for that matter advise me to feed animal remains to my cows.

Edward Spalton states that "meat and bone meal was a bacterially clean powder". Absolute shite. It is well known that workers and farm animals can get Anthrax off bone meal.

His next load of shite is that "BOCM made a considerable contribution to improved ruminant nutrition". Again absolute shite. I studied agricultural science at Queen's University during the 1950s and was always told by leading veterinary and agricultural experts that cattle can get sufficient nutrients from grazing, silage and linseed oil cake. Here in Ulster we enjoy all year grazing so there is not even the slightest incentive to use animal feed supplements like hoof and horn or meat and bone meal, unlike the rest of the UK.

Spalton then says that "the government during the 1950s made it compulsory to use meat and bone meal in cattle feed to save on imports". More shite.

His final piece of shite occurs in his statement, "The processing regulations, even after the partial relaxation, were as strict here as in most countries and the production methods practically identical." Absolute shite. Spalton is obviously unaware that "most countries" unlike the UK, did not use bone meal feed supplements and consequently did not experience "the tragedy of BSE". A cousin of mine who farms across the water in Devon is, together with local farmers, currently suing his animal feeds supplier over this very fiasco!

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM T. McCAULEY,

Cushendun, Co. Antrim.

Sir,

Your agricultural correspondent Marge is certainly right to point the finger at multinational compound feed companies such as Unilever's BOCM and of course the now defunct Dalgety in the continuing BSE saga (Down on the Farm, EYE 949).

However, the feed companies are only a small part of the BSE story. It is certain that BSE arose due to the activities of a number of parties and not least the agrochemicals sector!

Marge makes a valid point that despite years of campaigning by the NFU, the feed compounders refused to divulge the ingredients of their mixes for reasons of "commercial confidentiality".

I actually found out myself what was in the feed concentrate long before the media took up the "Dead Sheep" story after chatting to a rep who told me it was actually their crap feed that was mostly fed to UK dairy cattle, except of course mine since I make me own silage.

Similarly, the agrochemicals industry is naturally coy at revealing results of product safety trials in relation to pesticides, particularly with regard to organophosphate (OP) warble fly drenches. If you remember, it was back around 1985 under "Maggie's Reign of Terror" that compulsory warble fly drenching was brought in for certain areas of the country and at the same time farmers were being asked to stop using their old (non-OP products) and use Ciba-Geigy's OP drenches instead.

I must admit that I totally ignored Maggie's advice at the time and kept on using the old stock, mainly because it was cheaper than the Ciba-Geigy stuff, but also because I had read about OPs being used in the gas chambers in a book on World War II.

Now I'm glad I didn't use OPs since none of my herd was ever affected with BSE, nor did I go down with "Gulf War Syndrome and headaches" unlike my poor old neighbour up the road, who has since had to give up farming due to ill health.

Yours faithfully,
JIMMY DICKS,

Eynsham, Oxford.

FUNNY OLD WORLD

"When she began chanting 'you've got nine items' at us, we thought it was a joke," James Powell told reporters gathered outside a Milwaukee hospital. "It wasn't until we went into the supermarket parking lot and she started slashing at Vickie with her pocket knife that we realised how serious she was."

Powell was speaking after the arrest of Etharine Pettigrew, 41, who had been charged with recklessly endangering safety after slicing off the nose and left ear of 27-year-old Vickie Lemons in a supermarket parking lot. "Vickie and I were queueing in the express checkout lane because we only

had eight items. But then Vickie saw a magazine and put it in her basket, and the woman behind us started saying 'you've got nine items, get out of this queue.' She kept chanting until we got to the front of the queue, and then she told the checkout guy not to serve us. But he said it didn't matter to him if we had one extra item, so she started screaming and stormed out. We thought that was it, but she was waiting in the parking lot for us. She said 'I lost face in there — now you'll lose yours out here,' and before we knew what was happening, Vickie's ear and nose were lying on the ground. Thank God I had the presence of mind to put them in the frozen peas until the ambulance got here."

After surgery, the nose and ear were successfully reattached. *(Sunday Patriot, 12/4/98. Spotter: Ms. Charlotte Shuey)*

"It is laughable for devotees to complain that the fire was too hot," Prega Padayachee told his congregation after a Hindu fire-walking ceremony in Maritzburg (Kwazulu Natal) had ended in chaos. "Yes, I agree that the fire was big and hot enough to cook a feast for a hundred on, but if you are a true devotee then the heat won't matter to you."

Prega Padayachee, chairman of the Shree Siva Soobramoniar and Marriamen temple, was explaining why eleven fire-walkers had had to be rushed to hospital for emergency surgery on their feet. "During the festival, we pray to Mother Draupathi, the Goddess of Fire. We also fast for ten days before the fire walk, and nobody is supposed to get angry, in case we offend the Gods. But I saw several devotees eating chapatis and dhal when they thought nobody was looking, and a lot of them got very angry when they found out that they would be charged R20 to take part in the fire walk. You have to condition the mind before a walk, but they didn't. They created a negative vibration, and I think that angered the Gods, so it's hardly surprising they got burnt."

Speaking from a hospital bed, one of the burnt walkers, Ashok Shrinund, said: "I fasted for ten days and did all the right things. I cannot understand how I got burnt. If you ask me, I think the fire was too hot. It was full of red hot embers." *(South African Sunday Times, 12/4/98. Spotter: Chris Howells)*

—o—

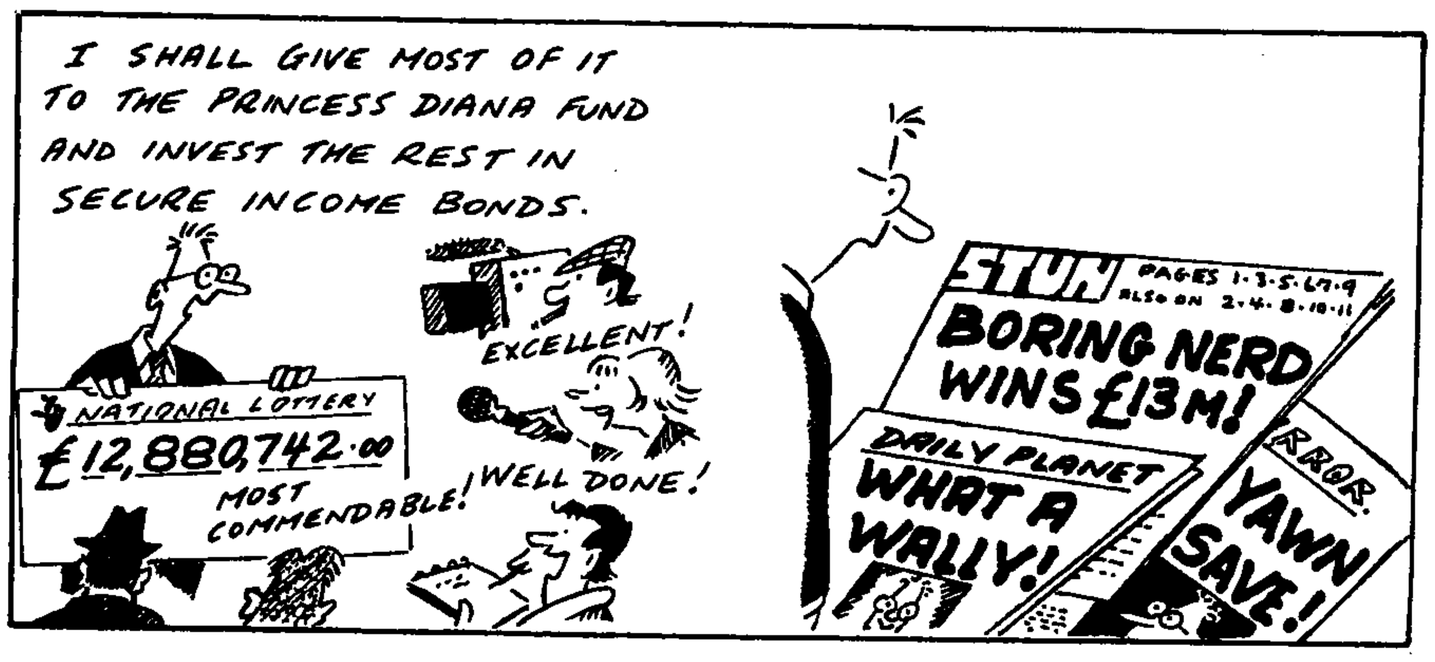
"Sir: It is high time that a constitutional review commission took a long look at the traditional Swazi custom of brides being topless at traditional weddings. This custom is absolutely marvellous when the brides are still fresh and have attractive bodies with rounded well-formed breasts, because the display allows her nubile body to be viewed by her new in-laws and spectators. But in the case of older brides who have already had children, what more horrible sight could there be than bare breasts which look like the sort of flat slippers that are used to feed a litter of puppies?

"I do not wish to sound old-fashioned, but I suggest that the constitution be altered so that only well-endowed maidens should appear bare-breasted at weddings. This will put an end to the ungentlemanly comments that are all too common when close-up pictures of bare-breasted brides who are well past their physical prime appear in the local press. Yours sincerely, M. Mbabane." (Letter to Capetown Argus, 7/2/98. Spotter: Kenneth Ball)

COMPILED BY **VICTOR LEWIS-SMITH**

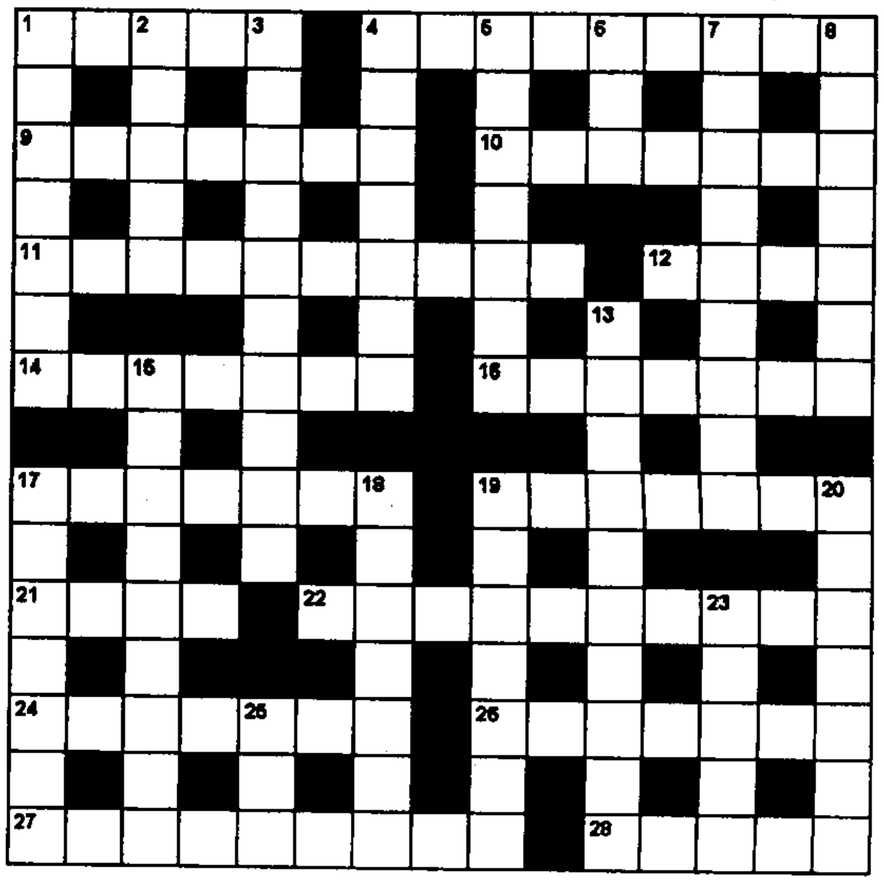
The Lottery Winners

TURNER



EYE CROSSWORD 106

by Cyclops *£100 prize*



ACROSS

1 Backing Blair, the country accepts long decline (5)
4 Agreeable schedule and a very nice income for Brenda (5,4)
9 Government official, one Tatchell 75% outed (7)
10 Dash to get parking space initially, boxing in the French milk distributors (7)
11 Banal, sad, endless ill-conceived attempts to exploit the memory of a royal exposed in the *Eye* (10)
12 Prepare to clean up *Brookside*? (4)
14 The filth sometime associated with Clinton (3,4)
16 Crack: teat substitute taken by politician getting tense (7)
17 In *Torygraph* all iconology is banana-shaped (7)
19 Journalist turned over by criminal plea in court (7)
21 Premier reportedly removed by the miners (4)
22 National get-together – for formal sex? (3,2,5)
24 Leaves fraud initiation to crooked goalie (7)
26 A bit of a tit has trouble with cold ex-dictator (4,3)
27 The latest arsehole journalist (9)
28 Way into Jonathan's bloomers (5)

DOWN

1 Bastard who's not named (2-3-2)
2 The very extreme in disgraceful transvestites? (5)
3 Worsted-clad police – not such a bad thing (10)
4 Reminder to luvvie: testicle is the one that's white (3-4)
5 Creamy white vehicle goes to Dicky Attenborough's head (7)
6 (see 13)
7 Not a good idea to enter Douglas here? (4,2,3)
8 Be a wanker with drug from boozer (7)
13/6 Resolute control of emotions displayed by someone who's gob-smacked? (5,5,3)
15 The last hit of The Who – bad, demented (live but not hot) (9)
17 Mock shag a bit of a laugh (4,3)
18 Hear Dick pull the French writer (7)
19 Jilted – went to ground (7)
20 Union out of the question for these supervisors of women (7)
23 Popular date, American flower (5)
25 Wood, like, getting hard (3)

£100 prize to first solution opened on 5.6.98. Entries to "Crossword", Private Eye, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1V 5RG.

Solution to Crossword No. 105

Winner: GRANT NIGHTINGALE

ACROSS: 1 Customs 5 Genital 9 (see 23) 10 Corgi 11/27 Number Crunching 12 St Moritz 14 Ton-up 15 Offspring 17 Vengeance 19 Lapps 22 Seraphim 24 Attila 26 Tyler 27 (see 11) 28 Restyle 29 Policed.

DOWN: 1 Cabinet 2 Showman 3 Old people 4 Slag 5 Get stuffed 6/20 Necrophiliac 7 Tartini 8 Leipzig 13 Corn circle 16 (see 23) 17 Visitor 18 No rules 20 (see 6) 21 Shagged 23/16/9 Party Political Broadcast 25 Rump.

How It Will Look

Der Mirror

Montag One Euro

ACHTUNG!

For You Kelvin, The War Is Over!

by Our Media Staff Maximillian Hitler Von Hastings

THE DAILY MIRROR under its hated leader General Montgomery has finally surrendered to the German High Command led by Obergruppenfuhrer Axel Springer.

The defeated junta fear the worst with talk of a Nuremberg-style trial for the main architects of the hated Mirror regime.

Montgomery himself, Kelvin McKenzie and the sinister Piers Moron are all likely to face the chop when *(continued p. 94)*

ON OTHER PAGES: ● "I was only obeying orders" Kelvin's shock plea 3 ● "Why I support Germany for the World Cup '98" writes Matthew Wreich 5 ● Chancellor Kohl's Sexy Diet Tips 6-28 ● Unfunny Cartoon by Tom Johanson 29

Those Sinn Fein Demands In Full

1. The RUC to find new name to reflect its new role in the community, i.e. 'IRA'.
2. The old RUC to hand over all its illegal weapons to new forces of law and order, viz IRA.
3. Er...
4. That's it (for the time being).

SALLY JOCKSTRAP

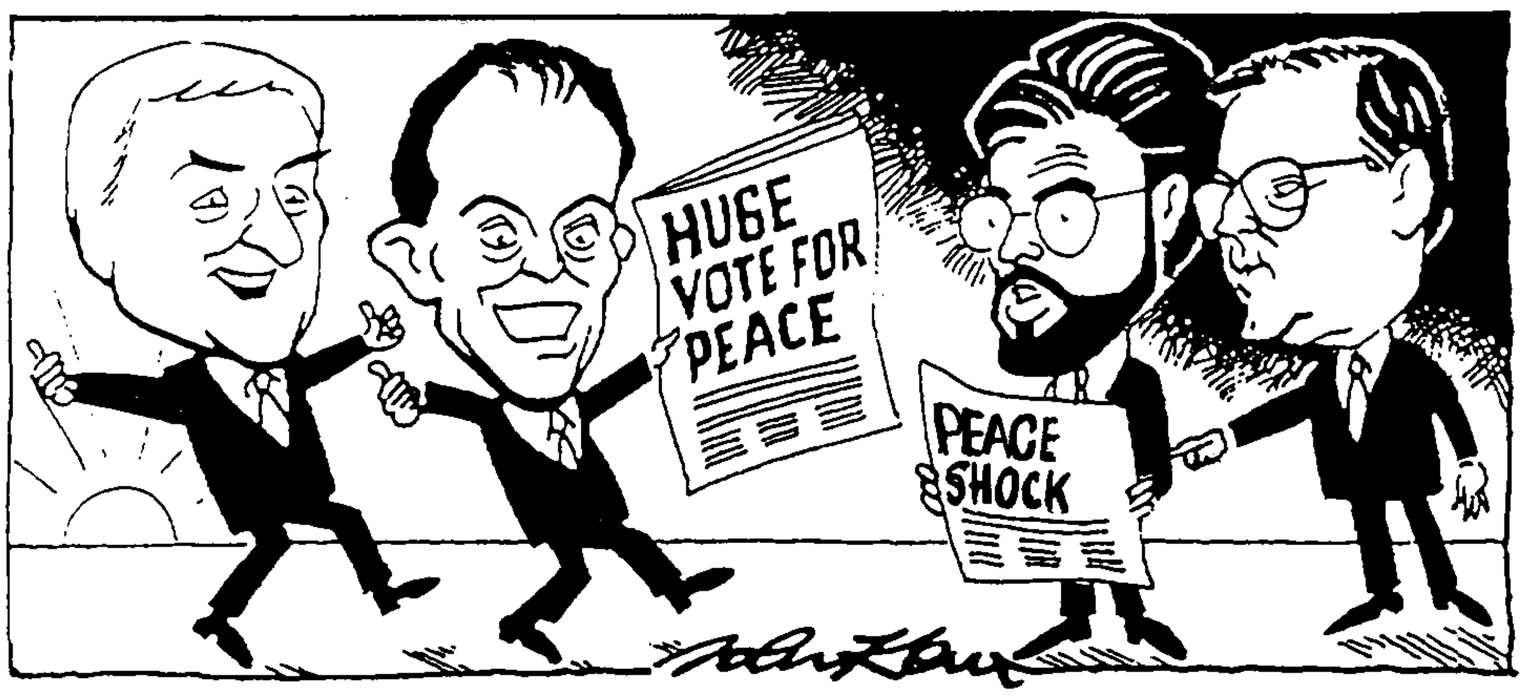
The Voice of Sport

THERE's only one winner for the World Cup this year: South Africa. Put your money on now, the bookies are offering 100-1 on "the Okapis" to take the Ashes! With players like Damon Hill, Emile Zola and Zola Budd how can they fail?

THERE's only one winner for Wimbledon '98 — and that's Greg Norman. The man they call "The Human Boomerang" has won every Grand Masters Slam event in the racing calendar. My money's on you, Bill!

THERE's only one winner for Royal Ascot this year — that's Martina Hingis on her Yamaha 750cc super bike. Vrmm! Vrmm! It's a hole in one for the Argentine showjumper!

A great summer of sport starts in September and you can read about it all here only in the Eye!



"The agreement means we can move forward..." *"... to disagreeing about what it means"*

In This Week's

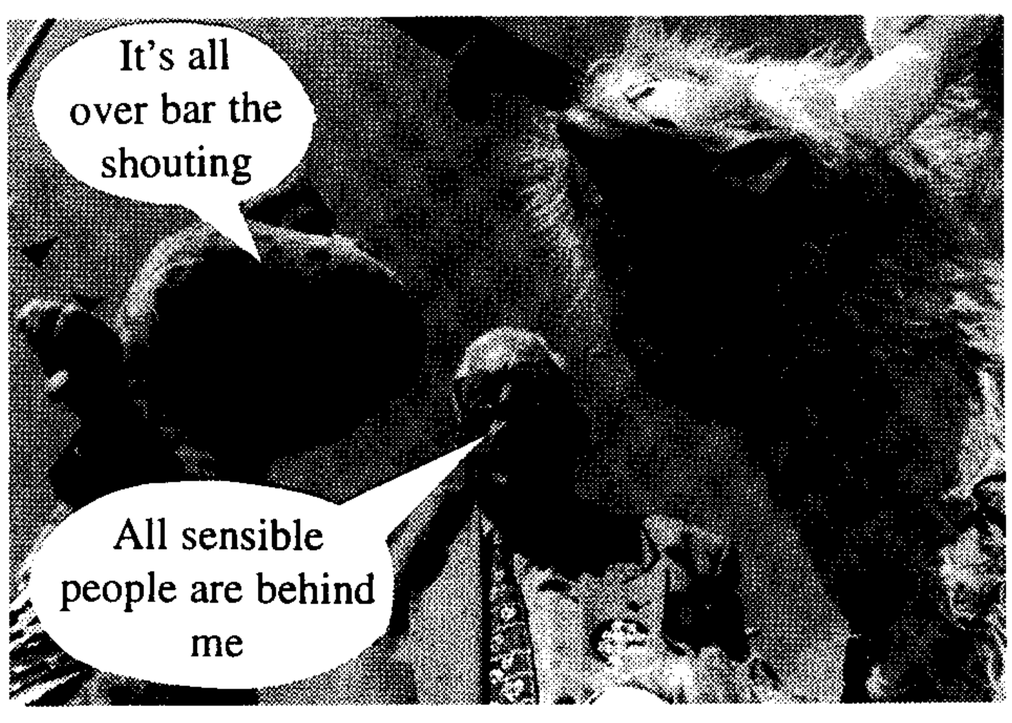
NewStatesman

(Deputy Editor Christina O'Donut)

● Paul Johnson — Spanks For The Memory writes Christina O'Booze ● Should The Pope Take Viagra? asks Christina O'NoNo ● My Top Ten Labour Hunks by Peter Mandelson *(surely Christina Odone? Ed.)*

It's all in the New Sexman!

NO IT'S YES!



ST ALBION PARISH NEWS

Incumbent: Rev. A.R.P. Blair MA (Oxon)

Hullo!

I am sure that every one of you will have been as devastated as I was to hear of the death of one of the greatest artists of our time, Frank Sinatra.

Like most of you, I will never forget where I was when I first heard the news that "Old Mr Blue Eyes" had passed away.

I was at a big weekend ecumenical conference in the lovely city of Birmingham, with a lot of top vicars from around the world.

We all just put down our coffee, stopped what we were doing, and bowed our heads in two minutes' silent meditation to remember all Frank had meant to us all.

Speaking personally, I felt that I had known him as a close friend for all my life! In childhood, in youth, in courtship and even in, dare one say it, middle age, one felt that Frank was always there, with the right words when they were wanted. Words of consolation, at times of grief. Of encouragement, when spirits were low.

Often he put across his message to us in parables. I expect you all remember — I certainly do — the song about the humble ant who was faced with the daunting task of moving a rubber tree plant. But he was able to do so because he had "high hopes". Or, as Frankie put it, in his inimitable, colourful way, "high, apple-pie in the sky, hopes". And isn't that in the end what it is all about? There are so many things in this life which may seem apple-pie-in-the-sky problems which seem intractable.

Take, for instance, the problem of Northern Ireland.

"Vicar," so many people have said to me, "there will never be a solution to the Irish problem." But I never lost sight of that little ant, with his "high hopes" and that rubber tree plant which he managed to move!

And wasn't I right? Last week we saw people in Northern Ireland saying "Yes" to the future and "No" to the past. Everyone agreed (apart from some people who didn't) that we could all agree about the new agreement! My thanks to Mrs Mowlam for helping me knock a few heads together and get people doing things "My Way"!

And this brings us back to Frank's songs, doesn't it, and there were so many of them, weren't there, which had a special message for us in this world today?

For instance, "Come fly with me." I seldom get on an aeroplane without those words coming back to me, and I often hear the melody as we are taking off — though my journey may well be to Belfast rather than Acapulco Bay!

And what about "Pennies From

Heaven" — where Frank made us realise that money problems just aren't that easy to solve!

I know a lot of you are worried about the problem of Third World Debt (particularly the good ladies at the Oxfam shop!), and all the money which some of the poorest people in the world are having to pay back to rich countries. It sounds immoral, unethical almost! But it's not that simple, it never is!

The parable of the man who buried his talent in the ground instead of paying it back should act as a warning to us all!

And that is why this Sunday, I have planned our evening service as a special tribute to the late, great Frank Sinatra, one of the most inspired artists of our time!

I have taken the liberty of borrowing one of Frank's best-loved hits and turning it into something even more relevant to the life of St Albion's today.

This is what we shall all be singing:

"Regrets, I haven't had any
Because I did it my Third Way!"
(repeat)

Yours ever,

Tony

Songs for Swinging St Albion's, words and music T. Blair (adapted from the late F. Sinatra), will be available in the Vestry, price £1.00 (all profits [if any!] to go to the Diana, Princess of Wales I Can't Believe It's Not Butter Appeal Fund).

To Remember In Your Prayers

The people of India as they face the consequences of their ill-considered action in letting off a number of bombs. We can all show what we think about this by boycotting the Star of Bangladesh Restaurant in the High Street, as part of Mr Cook's new ethical policy towards our friends in the Third World. He suggests that we all go instead to the new Indonesian takeaway across the road, the Suharto. Good idea!

T.B.

YOU WRITE...

Dear Sir,

I was very disappointed recently, after I had been offered the "Round The Churches" column on our local paper, to find that suddenly the job offer had been withdrawn by Mr Hollick, the paper's owner. What right had our churchwarden Mr Mandelson to interfere in the

Yours sincerely,
Paul Routledge, The Jack Jones Home For Retired Trade Unionists, Briginshaw Road.

The Editor reserves the right to shorten all letters due to reasons of space. A. Campbell

Holier in one than thou! Your vicar with the Reverend Jefferson Clinstone III on the Brummy Links!

Goodbye To...

...Mrs Mills, who for some years has dealt with legal matters for the PCC. We are all very sorry to see Barbara go. In spite of her sterling efforts, very little has been achieved. Good luck in your early retirement, Barbara! T.B.

+ + + + + + + QUIZ NIGHT + + + + + + +

● There was a mistake during the popular Parish Quiz Night, held at the Britannia Arms last week. The answer to the question *"Who is the most popular figure in the parish?"* was not *"Mo Mowlam"* as everyone there seemed to think. Mr Mandelson's decision as umpire is final. The correct answer should have been *"T. Blair"*. PM

Notices

● Mrs Harman is setting up her new creche project in the crypt, to be called "Cryptic Corner!" The idea is that any single mums in the parish who want to go out to work (and surely that means all of you!) can bring your kids to be looked after, while you get back to the workplace!

Great idea! Well done, Harriet! T.B.

WANTED!!!

● Care assistants for new creche project. Would ideally suit single mothers, with experience of looking after small children.

Apply Mrs Harman, Cryptic Corner, St Albion's.

The Daily Aitkengraph

Britain's biggest-selling quality daily

Friday, May 29, 1998

'How I Deserve V.C.'

War Hero's Impressive Claim

By Telegraph Editor Charles Moore

FORMER Cabinet Minister Jonathan Aitken told the Daily Telegraph exclusively today, "I had to lie in court or else the Germans would have attacked the Queen. I acted, as I did, honourably and managed to stop the Gestapo in their evil plot to overthrow the monarchy and install a puppet regime under Col. Gaddafi."

Mr Aitken, who has not spoken to anyone since his libel trial collapsed, chose to talk to the Telegraph because he knew I was a fellow Old Etonian and immensely gullible.

Said Aitken, "When I went to the Ritz Hotel in Paris, I was incognito acting for MI6. I chose the name 'Jonathan Aitken' to preserve my anonymity and allowed the Arabs to pay all the bills as a cover."

Aitkens' brief, personally entrusted to him by John Major, was to warn the Saudis about a plot against the Queen by Mossad, Iranian submarines and the IRA working in tandem with the hated Gestapo.

He arranged to meet King Fahd and sell him £1.7 billion of arms to help forestall the assassination of Her Majesty.

But the plot went wrong when Mohammed Fayed, who was acting for the Libyans, tipped off the Moscow-owned Guardian, urging them to sue Aitken for libel.

Once in court, Aitken had no choice but to force his young daughter to make false statements on his behalf.

The Telegraph says, "Jonathan Aitken is a fine and patriotic English gentleman. He deserves the Victoria Cross in recognition of his services to the country. Instead of which, he has been vilified and threatened with arrest on the grounds of perjury. Britain should hang its head in shame.

ON OTHER PAGES

Hundreds of other pieces about Aitken by various upper class friends and relatives.

'THIS IS NOT A PUBLICITY STUNT' SAYS WOMAN WEARING NO CLOTHES

by Our Entire Staff **Phil Space**

A BLONDE woman yesterday took off her clothes in front of the world's newsmen, telling reporters "This is not a publicity stunt, I just want my picture in the papers."

The blonde woman was wearing only a smile and the son of a former prime minister on her arm.

Revealing All

The blonde woman angrily denied claims that she was attempting to cash in on the fame of the former prime minister's son.

"He is only famous," she said, "because I have taken my clothes off."

"You would never have heard of him if it wasn't for me staging this publicity stunt." *Reuters*

On Other Pages

Pics of blonde woman with no clothes on **2-7**

Why oh why are we all taking notice of this woman with no clothes on? **asks A.N. Wilson** **8**

More pics of blonde woman **9-94**

How They Are Related

James Major

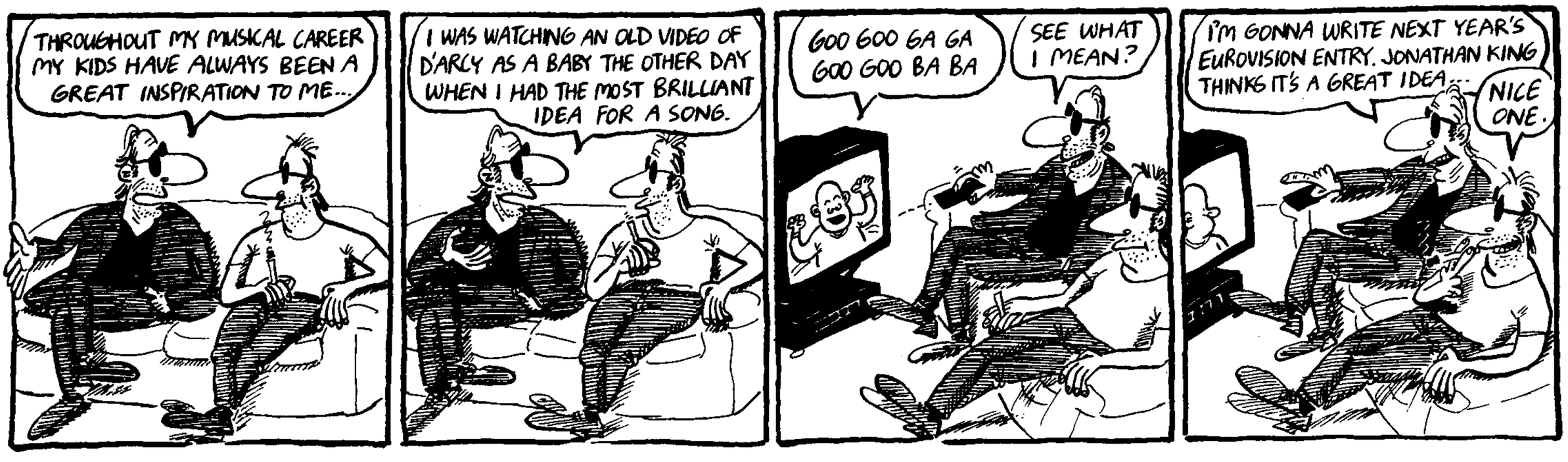
Earl Grey
|
Lady Jane Grey
|
Major Ball R.N. Retd
|
Terry Major-Wogan
|
Cyril the Squirrel
|
Mrs Edna Kierans
|
Mrs Thatcher
|
John Major

Emma Noble

Lady Emma Hamilton
|
Christine Hamilton
|
Christine Keeler
|
Mandy Rice-Davies
|
Anneka Rice-Davies
|
Anthea Rice-Turner
|
Emma Nippleson MP
|
Emma Dale-Farm

Celeb

LIGGER


THROUGHOUT MY MUSICAL CAREER MY KIDS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A GREAT INSPIRATION TO ME...
I WAS WATCHING AN OLD VIDEO OF D'ARCY AS A BABY THE OTHER DAY WHEN I HAD THE MOST BRILLIANT IDEA FOR A SONG.
GOO GOO GA GA GOO GOO BA BA
SEE WHAT I MEAN?
I'M GONNA WRITE NEXT YEAR'S EUROVISION ENTRY. JONATHAN KING THINKS IT'S A GREAT IDEA...
NICE ONE.

THE Sun

LASHING FOR KILLER NURSES

By Our Man In Jeddah
Lashtime O'Noose

TWO BRITISH nurses flew into Heathrow last night to face a ritual lashing from the Sun and other newspapers.

Their crime was to have sold their story to the Daily Mirror and not the Sun.

Said a Sun spokesman, "These two have failed to observe the customs of the country, and deserve no mercy.

"The age-old law of the land is quite simple. Anyone who is accused of committing a really newsworthy crime is duty-bound to sell their story to the Sun.

"If they do not do this, they face the penalty of a lashing of a thousand words, every morning for a week."

GAZZA'S UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT THREATENS CAREER

by Our World Cup Staff **Danny Halfbaker**

PAUL GASCOIGNE yesterday provoked a storm of fury when he went out on a four-hour "binge" of "non-stop football".

Gascoigne began by turning up at the England training ground with eleven mates and proceeded to run riot around the pitch in an orgy of passing, tackling and heading.

At one point Gascoigne was spotted unashamedly "scoring" to the delight of his rowdy friends.

They Drink It's All Over

There were immediate calls for his dismissal from the professional bodies representing cigarette manufacturers and brewers.

Said one senior manager, "Paul Gascoigne is a world class smoker and drinker. He is known as one of the top drunken oafs in the business. Why does he have to ruin his reputation by indulging in this weakness for football. He is setting a terrible example to yobs everywhere."

Lager Than Life

But top bender Coach Chris Evans defended the beleaguered Gascoigne. "We all know that Gazza likes a bit of football occasionally. But he doesn't do it very often and when he does it's not for long. Believe me he's still as good a drinker as he ever was." He continued, "Whatever the fuss over Gazza's latest football antics, he will be up there in the Pisshead's Pantheon along with such greats as George Best and Jimmy Greaves."

Gazza is 38 proof.

Yes! It's Britain's

BLAIRZONE

Newest Fanzine

BLAIR-AID '98

WHAT an incredible event! Birmingham has never seen anything like it since the Electric Light Orchestra played the NEC in 1981 (with Thin Lizzie in support).

Tone organised the biggest acts in the world to come together in a 4 day Festival of Noise — and all to save the Third World!

They rocked, they rolled, but unfortunately they couldn't agree on any measures to alleviate the debt problems of the developing countries!

But, hey, they did it with style! Tone was on lead vocals, "Wild" Bill Clinton played the sexophone and Big Boris Yeltsin was supported by his aides! This superband was called not U-2 but G-8!

And guess how much money the guys raised for the poor and needy? Go on! A nice round figure! — Nothing!

But hell they tried! And had a lot of fun doing it! And the good news is that they've promised to get together again soon for another monster thrash where they can trade licks, swap riffs and apologise for not taking any concrete action on international poverty!

Those Unforgettable Blair-Aid Hitz

- ★ Don't They Know It Isn't Christmas?
- ☆ **Feed The World's Leaders**
- ★ Dancing In Our Hotels
- ☆ **Meetin' All Over The World**
- ★ We Are TheChampions (No Time For Losers)
- ☆ **All You Need Is Lunch**

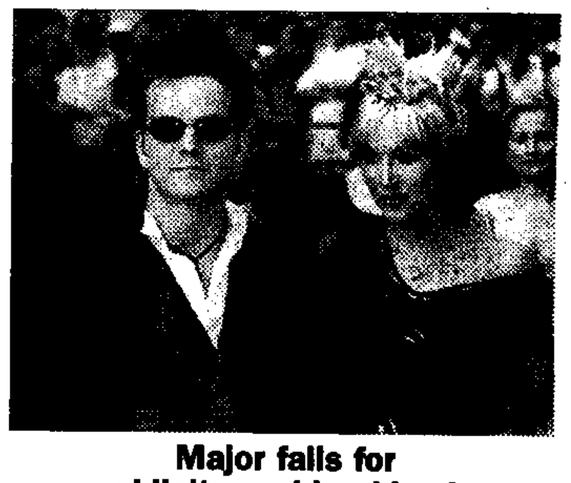
Tone's Thought for Blair-Aid
"I'm a great fan of Status Quo"

Then and Now

1988

Major falls for publicity-seeking blonde

1998



Major falls for publicity-seeking blonde

THE EYE'S CUT-OUT-'N'-KEEP WORLD CUP SOUVENIR — COUNTDOWN TO LE KICK-OFF!

Six To Watch in '98

Viagra

AT 65, the hard man of San Salvador is still a force to be reckoned with. Last played in the 1962 World Cup where he scored three times a night for the whole tournament.

Starburst (formerly Opalfruit)

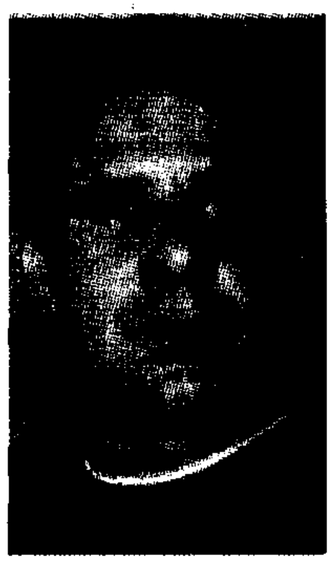
THE **USA**'s six foot six striker has been given the job of putting the ball in the net. Unfortunately, his experience as a basketball player with the New Dworkin Aardvarks means he has a tendency to be shown the red card within minutes of kick-off.

Dabitoff

UKRAINE's exciting No. 6 shirt — with all stains removed. Dabitoff's extraordinary ability to knock spots off his opposite number's trousers makes him a hard man to mark.

Piriton

PERU's top sneezer has played a record 398 games during the winter when the pollen count is at its lowest. Famously cried for hours during the qualifying rounds against Holland, played in the middle of a tulip field.



Inuit

LAPLAND are expecting a lot of this 17 year old Seal Club player who only joined the national squad after 6 months asleep in his homemade igloo. Inuit admits that it may be difficult playing in Paris where snow in the summer is virtually unknown.

Al Fayed

CONTROVERSIAL Egyptian sweeper, who formerly played for Haiti but was expelled after offering brown envelopes to the opposition goalkeeper. His ambition though remains to play for England one day.

YOBS
at the World Cup
You gonna get yer fuckin' head kicked in!!
What country is the World Cup in, Lads?
Er.. France 98
Er... actually, France is the country.. 98 is the year
GATWICK GATE 6
SHEARER 9
ADAMS
Ere we are in France 98 an' not a ticket in sight!
Oh I wouldn't say that.
ENGLAND! ENGLAND!
GLAND
No problem with our tickets is there mate?
Yes monsieur.. The computer says tickets for mr and mrs Newman
Groan
EN
Oi You takin' the piss out of my wife!?
ENG

THOSE WORLD CUP ODDS IN FULL

Brazil 3-1

Germany 4-1

Sierra Leone 7-2 (Nap)

Dana International 7-4

Macedonia 100-30

Red Rum 12-1

England 500-1

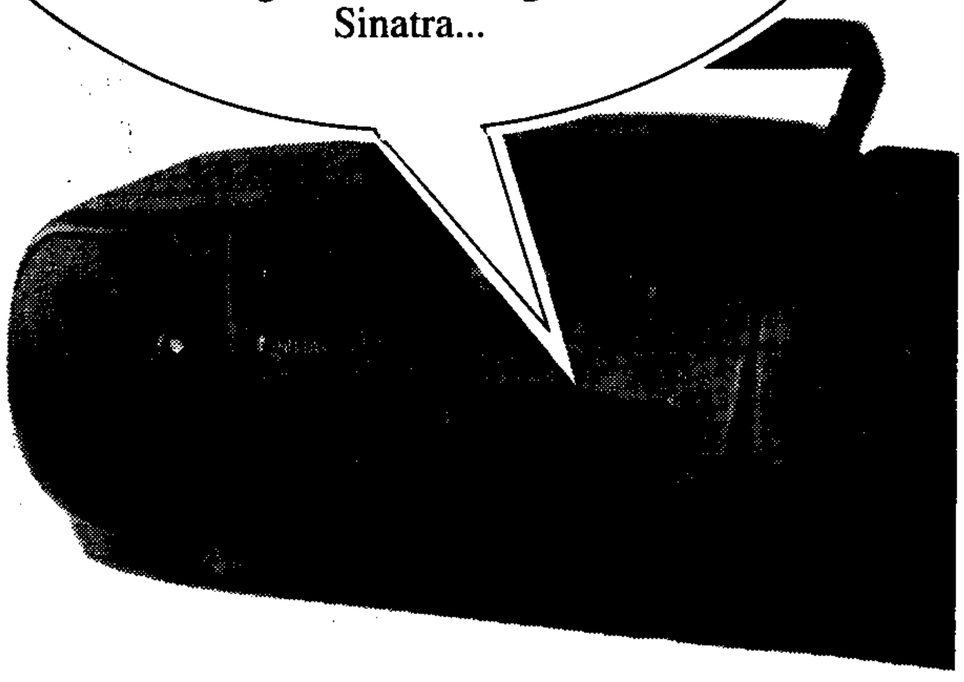
600-1 Bar (Gazza)

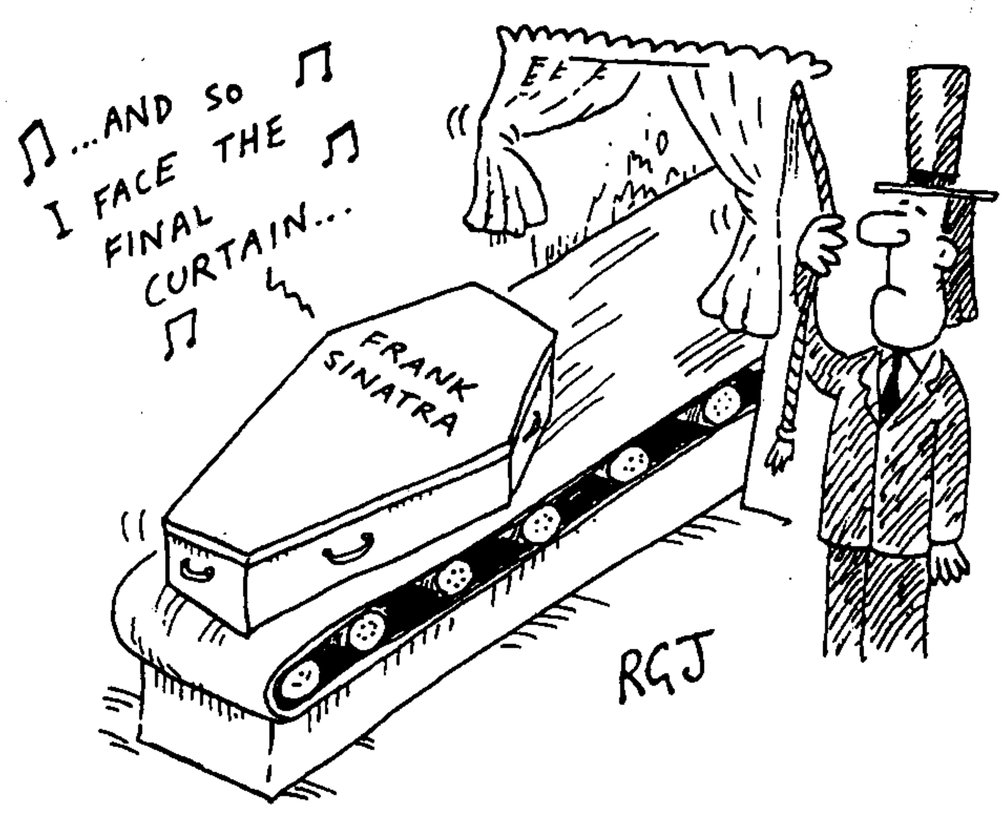
Harry Enfield's **Bores**
No. 37 Songs for Swinging Bores

That
was the late great Frank
Sinatra you're listening to Radio
Bore and now here's another
wonderfully subtle and intricate ballad from
the late great Frank Sinatra...

"When I was twenty-four / I was very poor / It was such a bore / To be poor in New Yor / Kbut that was before the war / & after the war / I got very rich / No longer living in a ditch / With an ugly bitch / I made lots of money / A big pot of honey / We played hands of rummy / In my nice big villa / I became a pillar / Of High Society / But I still didn't feel free / Inside my heart was raging / For I had a wife who was aging / But I've only got one life / Got myself a prettier wife / & some friends in high places / With Sicilian faces / We went shopping at Macy's / Made friends with the President / In the White House he paid no rent / & I'm no longer sore / 'cos I'm no longer poor / In New Yor / Kany more."

And now let's change the mood with
something from the late great Frank
Sinatra...





Day 27

THE ARMS TO AFRICA SCANDAL

The 17 Unanswered Questions That Could Topple The Most Hated Foreign Secretary Of Modern Times

by Telegraph Insomnia Team
Charles Snoore

AS MORE and more information comes to light about Britain's role in the Sierra Leone coup, the number of questions which Robin Cook has to answer is mounting by the hour, threatening to bring an end to thirteen months of hated Labour rule.

Those Unanswered Questions In Full

1. Did Col. Spicegirl of Sandcastle "Mercenaries R Us" Plc have a secret meeting with top Foreign Office official Sir Boris Rumbold on 17 March 1996, as he claimed in an interview with Newsnight's Jeremy Paxman on 17 May 1998?

2. In a parliamentary answer on 23 April, did junior minister Tony Lloyd knowingly mislead MPs when he told the House on 14 March that he had not seen a memo allegedly sent to the FO by British High Commissioner Sir Gilbert Pinfold on 12 February, reporting that a secret meeting had taken place on 11 January between the exiled President Kabbahdriver and Major Stringemup of Sandishore "Guns R Us" plc?

3. Is anyone reading this?

4. On 7 May 1998 when Robin Cook told the Select Committee that he was "wholly unaware of anything that had ever happened," and that if anyone implied that he was, he would personally sue them for every last penny that they possessed, had he in fact discovered in his red box a sheet of A4 paper dated 23rd April 1998, saying, "Foreign Secretary, I am sure you are too busy getting married to have time to read this, but just for the record we thought we'd better tell you that we have hired SandiGall Plc to go into Bongo-Bongo Land (formerly The British Bongolian Protectorate) and knock General M'Bastard off his perch. We are confident that this can all be covered up, and in due course you can invite a grateful President Kabbahdriver for celebratory drinks at Number Ten, with Sir Elton John and Dame Lily Savage."

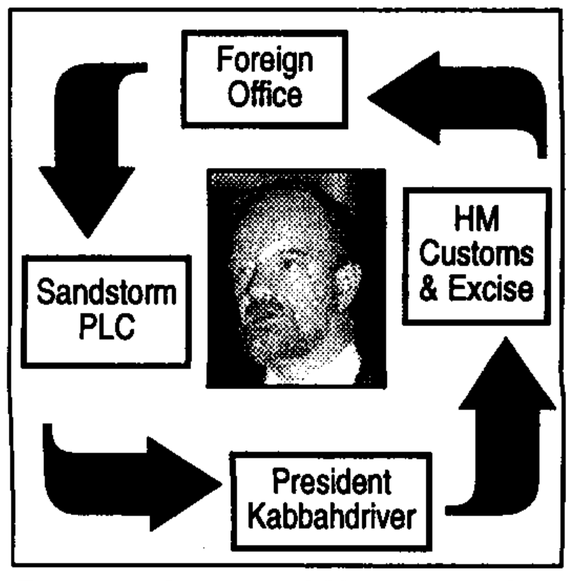
5. You're not still reading this, are you?

6. Er...

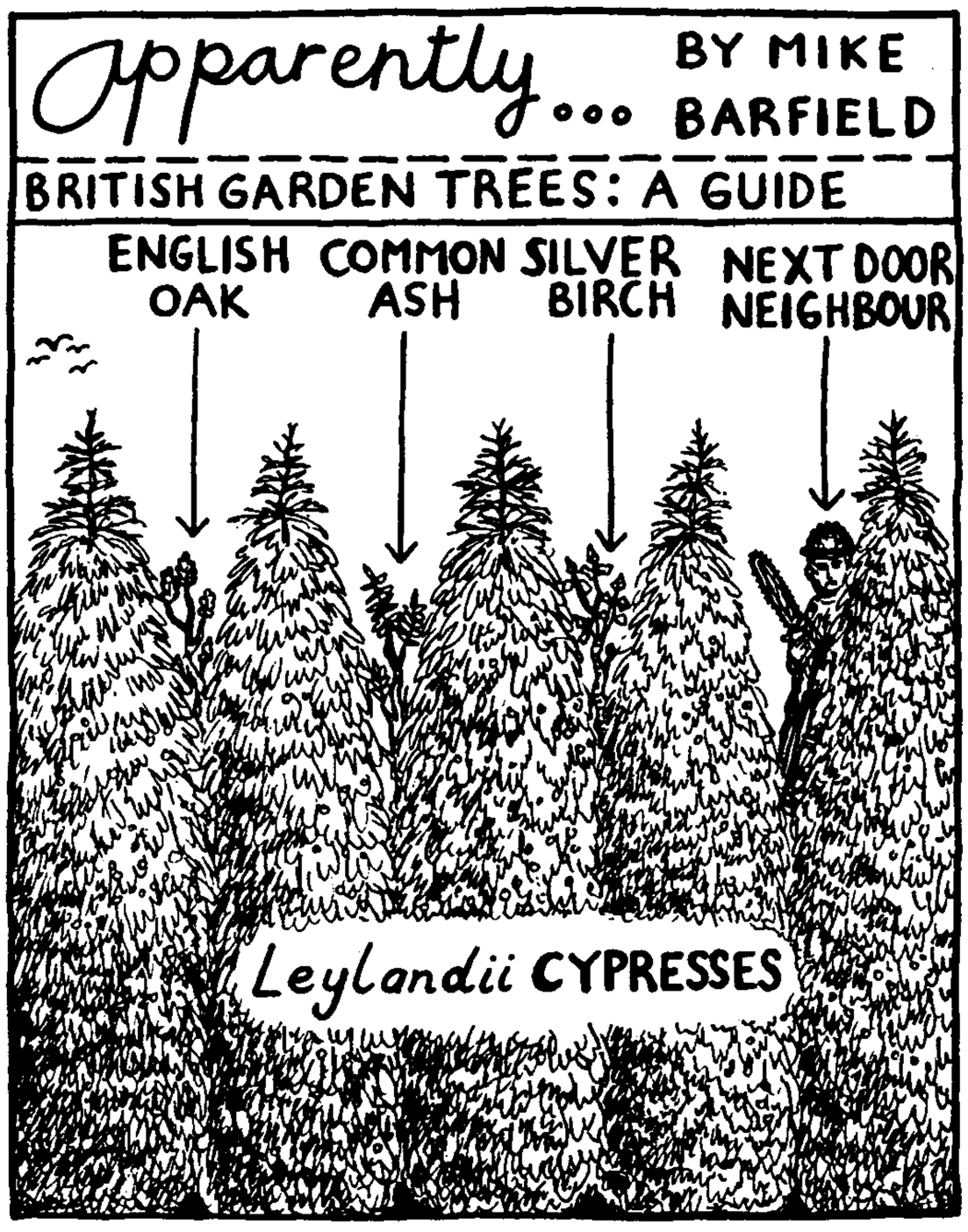
7. That's it.

HOW THE FO ARMS SCAM WORKED

An At-A-Glance Guide To The Biggest Scandal Since Iraqgate



Proposed route of M25 extension



Lives of the Saints

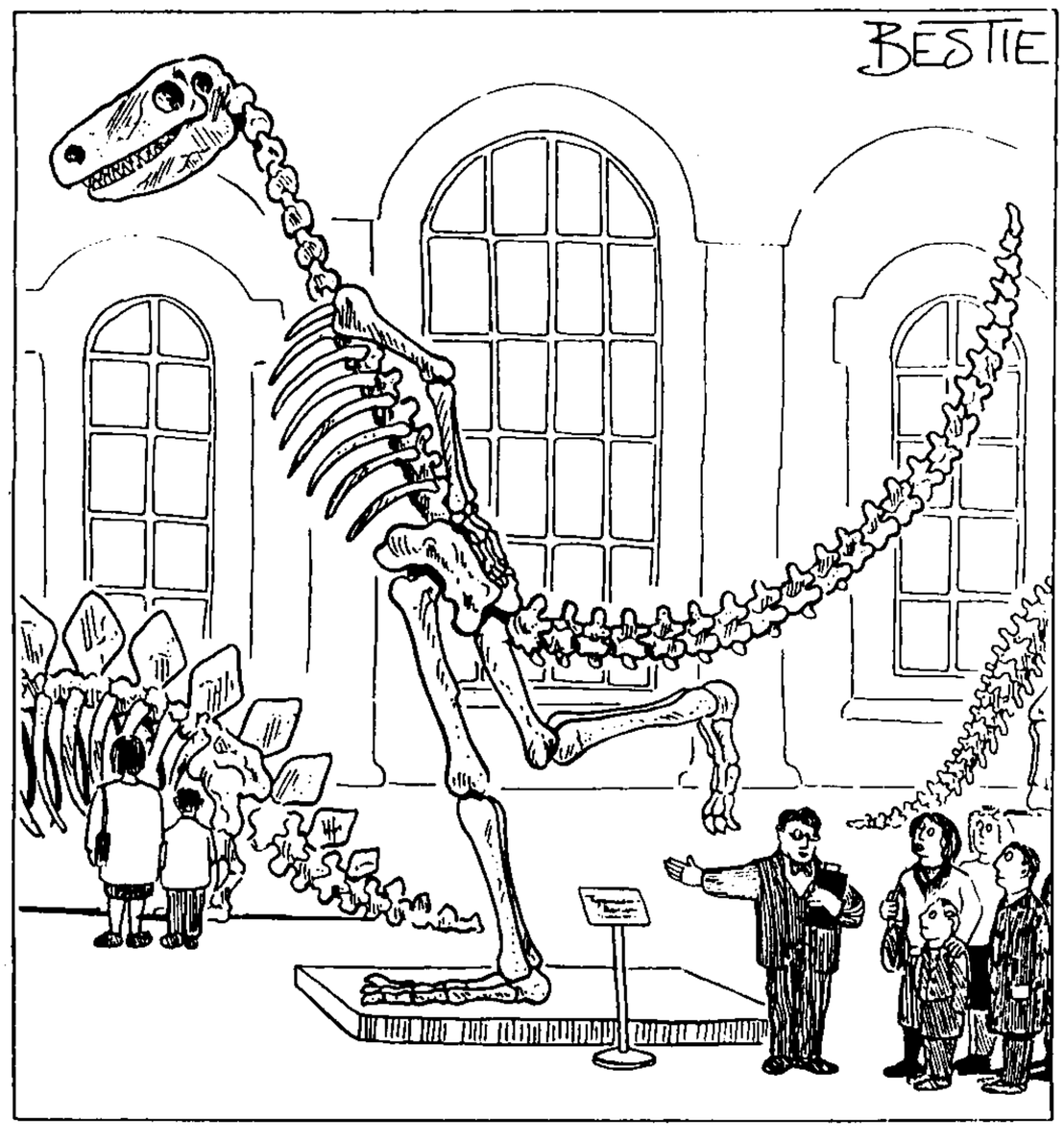
No. 94: St Paul The Flagellant

AND there lived in those days a wise man, florid of countenance, who was known throughout the land for his pious utterances. Not a day went by when his sermons and moral exhortations were not heard by the good folk of the time, who regarded him as truly the sage of the age. "Why oh why," he would preface his devotional admonitions, "must we tolerate the depravity that we see all around us? The whole nation sinketh into a sea of iniquity and licence."

And the saint attracted a great number of followers, including some of the holiest persons of the time. His acolytes included the Italian nun St Carla di Powell, the Abbess Lady Magnesia of Freelove and the Holy Father St Taki Takalotofcokupthenos, who had given up a life of crime to devote himself to sitting on a column in the middle of the desert (the *Spectator*).

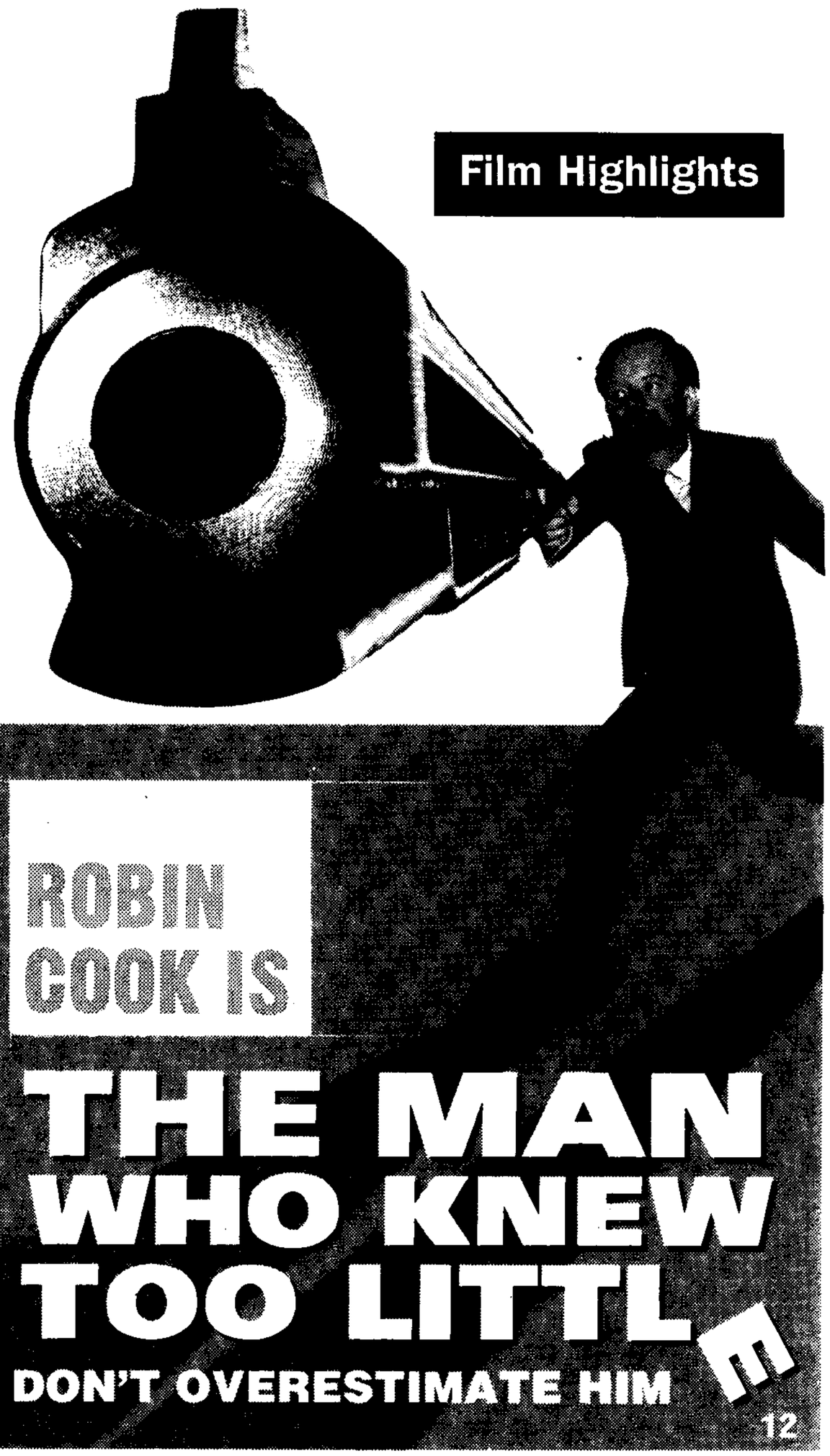
And one day, when a certain pious man called Jonathan of Aitken was set upon by evil reptiles and robbed of all that he possessed, it was the saintly Paul who alone sprang to his defence, castigating the hacks with many a moral imprecation. This was an act of supreme self-sacrifice, for in castigating Jonathan's accusers, the holy man made himself appear most foolish in the eyes of all who saw it.

But his sanctity was finally shown to the world beyond all doubt when a holy woman came forward, by name Gloria, announcing that the saint had for a long time come to her privily, to be chastised for his sins. "Verily, I have been a naughty boy," the saint would cry out, "you must spank me on the botty and show no mercy." And so she did, belabouring him with rod and staff, before telling all to the *Daily Express*.



"We believe this one was around during the Ice Age"

Film Highlights



Robin Cook stars as the hapless halfwit who is unwittingly thrown into an international conspiracy.

In this hilarious spoof of the Arms to Iraq story, our hero tries in vain to tell everyone he has no idea what is going on. He is pursued around London by sinister journalists who are under the impression that he is the Foreign Secretary and might have some idea whether or not he is supporting mercenaries in Sierra Leone.

Madcap farce at its most depressing. Watch out for a cameo by Tony Blair as chief of the rebel Hoo-Haas.

POETRY CORNER

In Memoriam Frank Sinatra

So. Farewell then
The staff of
The *Sunday Telegraph.*

You have all had enough
Of Dominic Lawson.

(Surely, Mr Thribb, you were meant to be writing about Frank Sinatra? Ed.)

Well, in that case
I resign too.
I am off to the
Sunday Independent.

E.J. Thribb
(17½ thousand pounds per column)

NEW OLD SAYINGS

Ask a silly question, get a daytime chat show

DIARY

Mark Whittaker: Sit back and enjoy the ride — or can you?! — because today on You and Yours we ask whether the government's repeated failure to provide compulsory safety-belts on playground swings is responsible for the deaths of up to several children a year —

Liz Barclay: And we ask why aren't petrol pumps in the nation's major filling stations clearly marked with a "Do Not Drink" sign? We tackle the government minister in question and ask him whether he would be prepared to drink a litre of premium grade petrol in the studio and face the consequences.

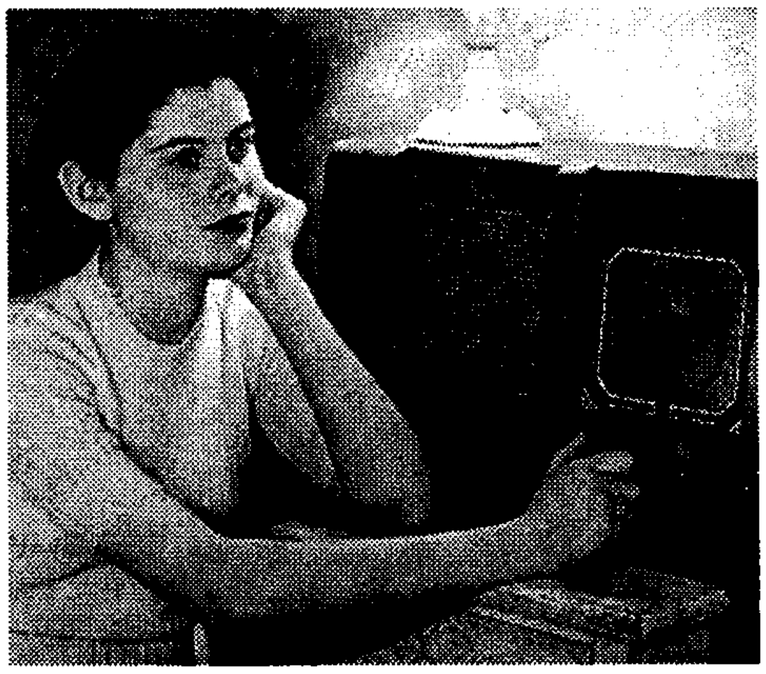
Mark Whittaker: Also on "You and Yours", the red paint that can cause you great distress if you spread it all over your tongue — and the state-registered GP who claims he has no regrets about informing a single mother on benefit that a front door left wide open can lead to severe household draughts.

Liz Barclay: All this plus a fair deal for the vegetarian butcher's assistant who has been threatened with the sack if he refuses to sell meat — in today's You and Yours.

Mark Whittaker: But first on today's programme, it's been over five hundred years since the Black Death wrought havoc to ordinary households the length and breadth of the country. But over the past few weeks there have been distressing signs that another deadly virus is set to strike. With me in the studio is Professor R.T. Fishial, a leading expert in the field of contrived health scares. Professor Fishial, what are the tell-tale signs that Britain is set to be wiped out by a bogus virus every bit as terrible as the Black Death — and is there anything we can do about it?

Professor R.T. Fishial: The signs cannot be ignored. Already I've heard people talk of a major international bogus catastrophe, perhaps even on the scale of last year's widespread terror that fresh food causes cancer.

Mark Whittaker: And is there anything the ordinary man or woman on the street can do to prevent themselves dying a hideous



YOU AND YOURS

death within the next few hours?

Professor R.T. Fishial: Nothing whatever.

Mark Whittaker: Great! Thanks!

Professor R.T. Fishial: That'll be seventy-five pounds plus VAT, please.

Liz Barclay: And now to a matter of growing concern among regular users of hats, caps and assorted headwear. Mrs E. White from Esher in Surrey has e-mailed us to say that the beret-style hat she purchased at her local branch of Dorothy Perkins last April proved wholly unsuitable for the job for which she bought it, namely as a miniature kitchen-sink. "The beret is made of a light fabric which simply does not hold water," Mrs White tells us. "After thirty separate washing-up sessions, my kitchen floor was utterly soaked — and the beret itself was ruined." Well, we tracked down the manager of that particular branch of Dorothy Perkins and we have him on the line now. Mr Avery, I must put it to you that you have completely ruined Mrs White's life. What do you propose to do about giving her a fair deal?

Mr Avery: Well, to be honest the beret was never really intended for use as a sink...

Liz Barclay: And were warnings to that effect clearly labelled on it at the time of purchase?

Mr Avery: Well, er —

Liz Barclay: Thank you, Mr Avery. We now go over to the Liberal Democrat spokesman with special responsibility for supporting consumer complaints on daytime radio, Roger Jessop. If I may turn to you, Mr Jessop —

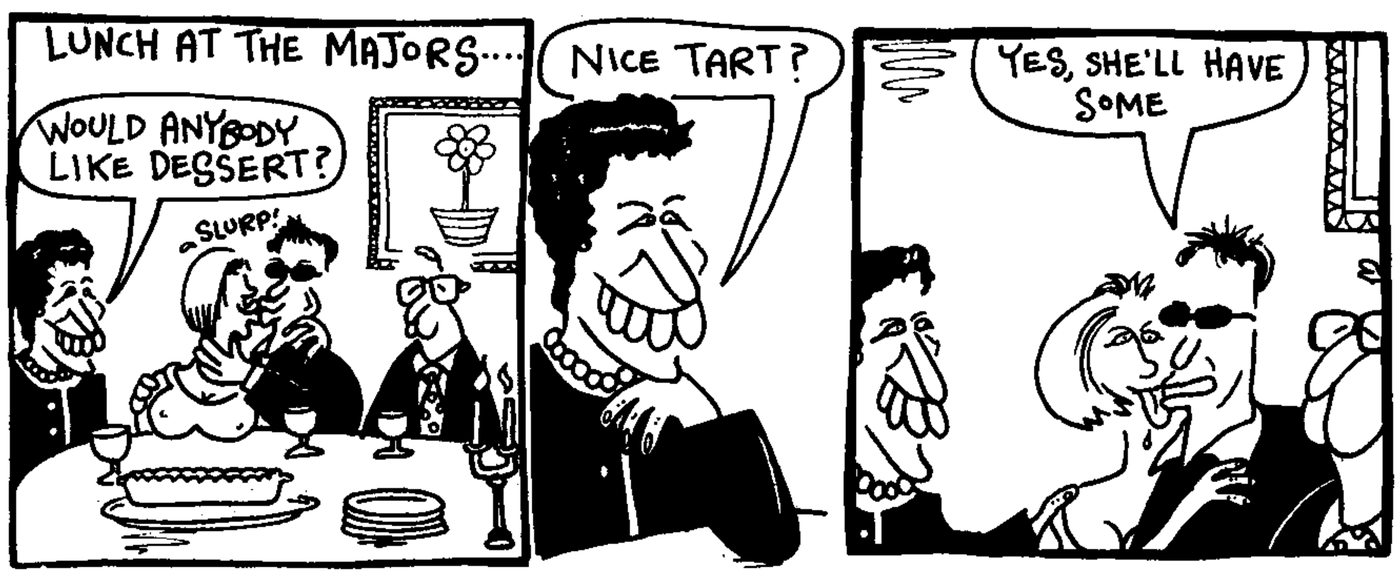
Roger Jessop MP: Frankly, Liz, I'm deeply distressed by what we have just heard. I'll be seeking immediate cross-party talks in the House of Commons with a view to setting up a tribunal to look into the whole matter of setting up a Beretwatch actionline to deal with the whole problem of porous berets and I'll also be contacting the Office of Fair Trading to look into the whole matter of how to look into the whole matter.

Mark Whittaker: But for the time being, you can e-mail us on whingers dot uk dot crybaby dot BBC stress dot time-waster dot. And now to more of your calls on faulty bus signing. Mr Mark Ryland of Aldershot tells us that he caught a bus from Newhaven wanting to go to Eastbourne but he ended up in Reading High Street. The bus company claims that the bus was clearly marked "Reading", but Mr Ryland — whose dog Scruff died just two years ago, and who himself suffers from occasional vertigo — tells us that he took this to mean that passengers were permitted to carry books and/or magazines with them. Mr Ryland, whose wife left him last May and whose cousin recently broke his leg in a skiing accident, has since called on Reading Council to urgently consider changing the name of the town, but he has met what he describes as a very negative response. Liz?

Liz Barclay: And on tomorrow's You and Yours, we call for tighter controls on everything that doesn't have them already, we hear tell of the potentially lethal threat to the gardener from brightly coloured flowers, and we investigate complaints against the complaints commissioner and ask him whether there should be a commissioner appointed to look into them, and if so how one would set about complaining about him — all this, and a major investigation into the man who has been refused a job as an air traffic controller for no better reason than because he is blind.

SUPERMODELS

KERBER



★ Mr Mawhinney meets local travellers. Earlier in the day he visited the new secure unit at Woodhill Prison and met members of Bletchley Conservative Club

Milton Keynes Herald

2 SETS OF BOWELS as new ladies & gents, still in 2 nice cases, genuine reason for selling, £140 for both

Peak Advertiser

Tuesday

higher education

Senior Universisties

Grauniad

Literary Review

Baker's Dozy

The Everlasting Story of Nory
Nicholson Baker
Chatto, £12.99

IN THE late 80s Nicholson Baker improbably made nerdiness sexy, anoraks glamorous. His first two works — *The Mezzanine* and *Room Temperature* — had the charming and funny idea of treating short periods of time (an hour or a few minutes) with the kind of analytical rigour applied by historians to a decade or a year, while trivial objects and facts would be footnoted. This was clever from both a literary and a publicity perspective, as the eccentricity of the approach guaranteed attention.

The third book *U and I* — an account of Nick's obsession with John Updike — was another charming concept, although there were for the first time hints of something unpleasant in Baker's literary personality: an odd combination of ingratiation and egomania. These were amply confirmed in the works that followed. *Vox* was an account of phone sex, in which the two speakers wanked to orgasm. *The Fermata* featured a guy with the science-fiction trick of stopping time at the moment of sexual climax and doing things to the woman he was with that she didn't know were happening. These novels raised the Woody Allen problem: that Baker was the nerdy intellectual who secretly fancied himself as King Dong.

The writer was openly accused of being a pornographer for these books, and his reputation fell as his sales soared. But the opprobrium seems to have disturbed him. His latest novel — *The Everlasting Story Of Nory* — seems designed only to prove to readers and family that he's a nice guy after all. This is Nick's probation book, his 100 hours of community service.

As such, it's magnificently dull, obsessively inoffensive. A nine-year-old American kid spends a term at an English school and describes her adventures: "The next thing in the order of the day was that they were supposed to go to music class." The book's primary message is to Baker's own daughter: kid, folks may say bad stuff about Pop's middle novels, but he loves you masses. The secondary message is that Baker's wife is a sport, a support and, moreover, a stunner. Yuckily, we learn that Nory's "mother's eyes were the most soothing, nicest, softest, deepest eyes that any mother could have".

Baker's biggest selling point as a writer at the beginning of his career was genuine originality. Even those irritated by *The Mezzanine, Room Temperature* and *U And I* were forced to admit that no one else would have approached the novel or the biography in those ways. They were, in the most neutral sense of the word, incomparable.

Revealingly, the downward curve of Baker's career has featured books which for the first time raised immediate parallels to their readers. *Vox* and *The Fermata* seemed like bad parodies of Phillip Roth written on Viagra. Confirming this tendency, *The Everlasting Story Of Nory* dropped in Britain in a month when novels with juvenile leads dominated the tables of new books. Hornby's *About A Boy* turns over half its chapters to a pre-teen, while A.N. Wilson's *Dream Children* revolves around a London Lolita.

This is no surprise. The child — as victim of abuse, killer of other children, investment in the future — has become the central figure in contemporary culture. The problem is that these fictional kids all have the voice and characteristics of their adult creators. Hornby's boy is baffled but likeable, Wilson's girl a languid fogey and, wouldn't you know, Nicholson's nine-year-old is an obsessive cataloguer with a wry eye for minutiae.

Many parents will want the address of little Nory's school at once for she has turned out impressively fluent in disciplines rarely taught in infant schools. Philology, for example: "Brick is a good word for bricks because it has the sound of the sharp crunchy edge in it, pulling across." Old Nick puts an inelegant repetition in the first part of the sentence, aiming for a childish sound, but the voice of a mature stylist creeps in and has triumphed by that final "pulling across".

Neither the range of observation nor the frame of reference are right for a nine-year-old. Throughout the book the reader suffers the irritation of listening to the competition winners read out on *Blue Peter* and thinking: "Their dad wrote that." Only in the sense of the trajectory of its author's career does *The Everlasting Story Of Nory* achieve the intended effect of regression.

'Book Eyes'

BOOKS & BOOKMEN

■ BOTH the Daily Telegraph and Bantam Press have taken great pride in publishing the autobiography of ex-IRA murderer Sean O'Callaghan. It is, they explain, their patriotic duty to do everything possible to expose and destroy the Provos.

Were they delighted, then, when their author went off to Dublin only a week or so before publication to give damning evidence against IRA boss "Slab" Murphy on behalf of the Sunday Times, which Murphy had sued for libel?

Er, no. Executives at Transworld, which owns Bantam Press, suddenly realised his testimony would include many details from his book and might jeopardise their lucrative serialisation deal with the Telegraph. They also feared that as soon as he arrived in Dublin he'd be arrested for questioning about an unsolved murder — and might thus be in custody during publication week, unable to do any interviews or book-signings.

Forced to choose between protecting their literary property and helping the cause of justice, what did they decide? The answer emerged during an unreported exchange while O'Callaghan was in the witness box.

"What was the publisher's own attitude to you coming back to Ireland to give evidence in this case?" the Sunday Times's counsel asked.

"They did not want me to do it," O'Callaghan replied.

Luckily for the Sunday Times — and for the cause of truth — he disregarded their advice

■ IN 1992 an obscure reprint company called Wordsworth brought out a series of £1 classics. They were an immediate success, and sold hundreds of thousands of copies.

Penguin, having at first argued that Wordsworth's was a tawdry operation, took two years to react before launching its own £1 range in an effort to blow Wordsworth out of the water. But Wordsworth is still here. All Penguin has done is to undermine its own market.

So Penguin is trying another tack. It has issued a writ against Wordsworth, accusing it of "passing off". In the US, it instigated a similar lawsuit against Oxford World's Classics, and has forced OUP to spend a small fortune trashing its new "Oxford blue" jackets in favour of a red design.

Michael Lynton, chief executive of Penguin, started his working life on Wall Street. Clearly he learned his business ethics there..

'Bookworm'

"The spell check doesn't recognise Monopoly"

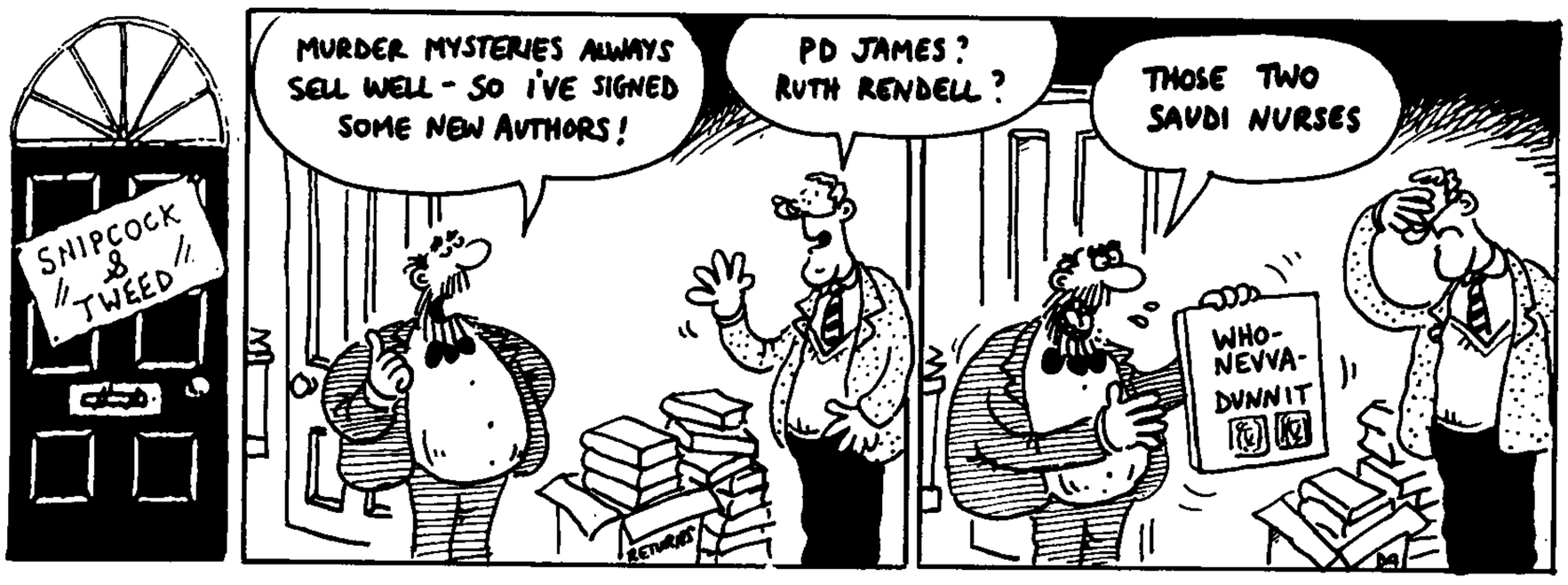
LIBRARY NEWS

NEWS from the British Library's new building at St Pancras, where a bewildering message appeared in the monthly *Readers' Bulletin*: "Holiday Closures — The Library will be closed on Monday May 25th for the Bank Holiday and on Thursday June 25th, for the Library's official opening."

Other signs that the new library is flourishing were reported by one reader who found on his last visit that the magnetic card-operated turnstiles were not working, nor were the automatic doors and nor were the escalators ("waiting for parts").

Meanwhile, serious academic debate thrives in the men's lavatories where a limerick has been daubed on the wall:

An ageing Don Juan at St Pancras
Was rendered red-visaged and rancorous
By a Reading Room Belle
Who said "Go to Hell",
So he told her, "You're just a wankeress".


SNIPCOCK & TWEED
MURDER MYSTERIES ALWAYS SELL WELL - SO I'VE SIGNED SOME NEW AUTHORS!
PD JAMES? RUTH RENDELL?
THOSE TWO SAUDI NURSES
WHO-NEVVA-DUNNIT
RETURNS

footnotes

BYE BYE, BIOTECH

THE main point about British Biotech, the pharmaceutical company whose visionary chief executive Keith McCullagh has just announced his resignation, is that it produces nothing, markets nothing and sells nothing.

From its formation in 1986, the multi-million pound company has depended for its existence entirely on clinical trials into three drugs for containing cancer or pancreatitis. If the trials were successful, the company would make many millions. If they were not successful, it would collapse. Everything depended on information about the trials. This explains the central role of the clinician in charge of the trials, Dr Andrew Millar, and the public relations hype for the drugs which, against Millar's advice, streamed out of the company to the stock exchange and the world.

The position in March this year was as follows. Trials into one of the drugs, Batimastat, had been abandoned three years previously following the clearest proof that injections of the drug caused peritonitis and intense stomach pain. The second drug, Zacutex, had also, in Dr Millar's view, comprehensively flopped in its trials, but tens of millions of pounds were still being spent on it. There was a 50-50 chance that the third drug, marimastat, might register some success in about three years' time.

Throughout the last three years Dr Millar became increasingly worried that the directors were ignoring the truth about the trials in the interests of the share price and the vesting date of their share options. When he tried to raise these concerns with the chief executive, he was reprimanded for "attempting to demoralise senior management". When he shared his problems with Perpetual, a small company with shares in British Biotech, he was suspended and sacked. It now appears he was right all along and that British Biotech is sailing down the drain — but not before a furious rearguard battle by all sorts of important people who rallied to the flailing company in its hour of need.

CAMERON McKENNA

After suspending Dr Millar BB's directors commissioned an inquiry by City solicitors Cameron McKenna. Two partners of the firm, Tony Marks and Christine Bendall, reported on 16 April. They addressed the crucial question of whether BB's former chairman Brian Richards and chief executive Keith McCullagh knew about the grim results of Batimastat trials when they sold BB shares on 17 January 1995. (Richards sold 112,568, and McCullagh 111,700. The price was £5.25 a share: today it is 57p and falling.)

A week before these sales Dr Millar had told a meeting of cancer doctors that the Batimastat trials were at best extremely problematic. Did McCullagh know about these problems when he sold his shares a week later? The Cameron McKenna report notes: "Dr Millar and Dr (Peter) Lewis, BB's research and development director, talked together on a daily basis. Their offices were close together... It would be reasonable to assume that every significant development was reported by Dr Millar to Dr Lewis. We were also told that Dr Lewis was in almost daily contact with Dr McCullagh. There was therefore an informal flow of information from the clinical research team to the chief executive."

Dr Andrew Millar

Perhaps, then, it would be "reasonable to assume" that the chief executive had heard of the results of the trials which Dr Millar had passed to the London gynaecologists? Not so, apparently. "He told us he was not aware of the outcome of the meeting on 10th January," reported Marks and Bendall. Accordingly, they conclude, "we see no evidence to suggest that it was reasonably probable that an announcement [about the trials] would be required at the time [of the share dealings]".

McCullagh and Richards were in the clear! Cameron McKenna had concluded that they did not know anything about the results of their most crucial trial into their most crucial drug. Triumphantly the company sent off the Cameron McKenna report to Perpetual. "You will see," trumpeted chairman John Raisman CBE, that the directors had been "completely exonerated".

Unfortunately, however, the Cameron McKenna report also revealed that BB directors' sharedealings were being investigated by the American securities exchange commission. So Mr Raisman insisted that the report be treated as "strictly confidential" and not shown to anyone "in particular Dr Andrew Millar".

THE STOCK EXCHANGE

The company was also able to report jubilantly that a London stock exchange inquiry into the sharedealings had stopped investigating the company in June 1995 after concluding that the directors had behaved entirely properly.

KLEINWORT BENSON

On 10 March this year Dr Millar visited British Biotech's time-honoured merchant bankers, Kleinwort Benson, where he was greeted cordially by two of the bank's directors, Peter Button and Simon Nethercote.

The bankers listened earnestly for two hours to his news about his drug trials. He was politely shown the door. When he got back to his office outside Oxford, he was pounced on at once by the company lawyer Paul Littlewood and chief financial officer Malcolm Fallen (sic). They told him he was suspended and must leave the premises at once. He was frog-marched off the site.

MERCURY ASSET MANAGEMENT

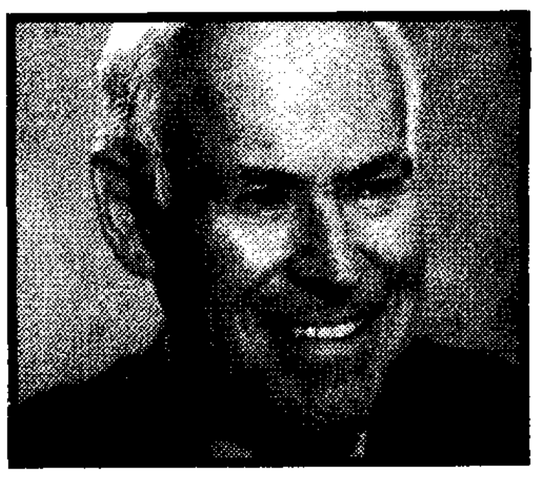
A week later, on 17 March, Dr Miller sought help from British Biotech's biggest shareholder, the legendary fundholder MAM. He was seen there by two MAM directors, Tom Oates and Consuelo Brooke. They too listened to him courteously. As he ushered Millar to the door, Mr Oates murmured that what was needed was "a period of media stability to allow us to move forward constructively". Millar duly kept quiet. His reward came quickly. On 18 April the confidential Cameron McKenna "exoneration" of BB directors was leaked to the press. On 20 April Millar was sacked without a penny compensation but with a press release which accused *him* of leaking confidential material.

SLAUGHTER & MAY, JAMES PRICE QC and MR JUSTICE MAURICE KAY

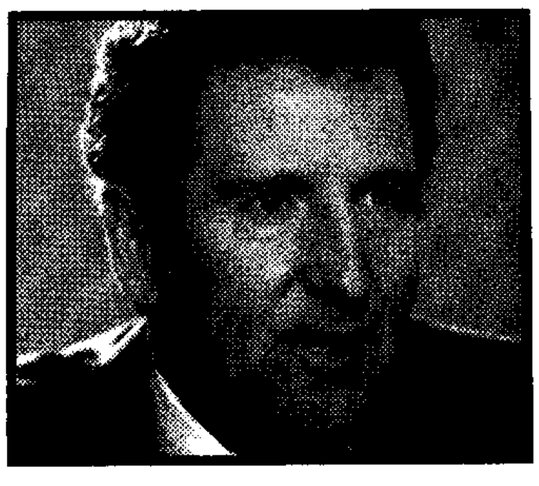
On the evening of 22 April, British Biotech directors heard to their horror that the *Times* might be publishing excerpts from the Cameron McKenna report which they themselves had leaked. Quick as a flash, Deborah Finkler, Jonathan Cotton and Caroline Edwards from BB's city solicitors Slaughter & May instructed James Price QC to haul out a judge at 8pm and apply, without any other party present, for an injunction to stop the *Times* quoting from the report. Mr Justice Maurice Kay obliged and the *Times* was duly censored.

LUDGATE PR and the LONDON EVENING STANDARD

Throughout the controversy British Biotech has been loyally served by David Simpson at

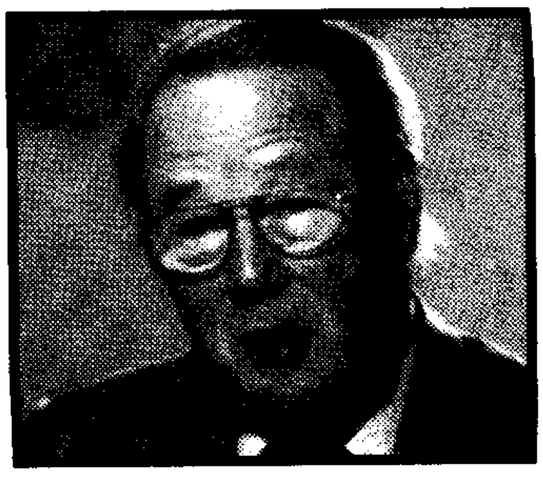


JOHN RAISMAN CBE



KEITH McCULLAGH

TONY MARKS

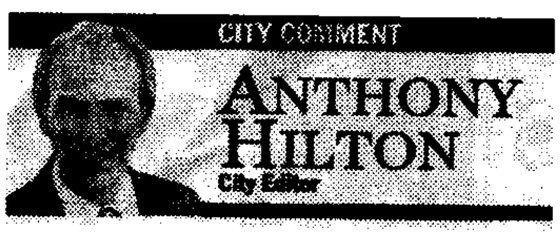


MARIUS GRAY

the PR company, Ludgate. Simpson's efforts have been especially effective at the London *Evening Standard*, which from the outset has taken up cudgels on behalf of the company and against Dr Millar. An outstanding example was the *Standard* City editor's comment on the day Keith McCullagh resigned, 19 May.

BB's chief executive, drooled Anthony Hilton, had been "an easy target for a disaffected employee... Personalised attacks on him also trashed the company's share price. Indeed, the most unsatisfactory aspect of this messy affair is how much damage has been done to British Biotech by allegations which the board and its advisers have now investigated and dismissed as absolutely without foundation."

As *Eye* readers will recall, Mr Hilton is a consultant to the



London stock exchange, which has now secretly and shamefacedly reopened the investigation into British Biotech which it so meekly dropped in June 1995. Mr Hilton also forgot to point out that Mr Simon Marius Gray, a non-executive director of British Biotech, sits on the board of Associated Newspapers which owns the *Daily Mail* and the *Evening Standard*.

On 20 May the injunction against the *Times* was lifted by the high court. British Biotech did not even bother to send its lawyers to court to stick up for the injunction they had asked for. The *Times* had a field day at the wretched company's expense. As he sits at home without a job or an income and contemplates the plain fact that everything he has said about British Biotech is turning out to be absolutely *with* foundation, that his former chief executive has thrown in the towel and that his former company is paying the price for its persistent ostrichery, Dr Millar will no doubt reflect on the unswerving support he has had from top lawyers, courts, merchant bankers, big shareholders, the stock exchange, public relations agencies — from indeed the entire City establish-

Toad of Teddy Hall

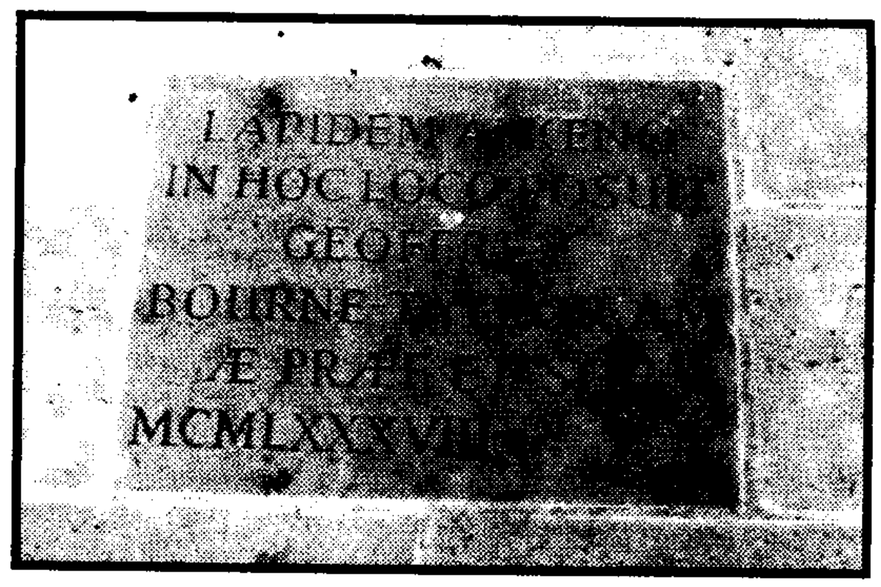
THE antics of Geoffrey Bourne-Taylor are causing much amusement at St Edmund Hall, Oxford, where he is the bursar.

He persuaded the college garden committee to allow him to install a stone in a tasteful precinct near the chapel, engraved with a moving tribute to... himself. The inscription, in Latin obviously, declares that the "stone has been placed in this pleasant place by Geoffrey Bourne-Taylor, MA and bursar, 1988- ". Presumably when Mr Bourne Taylor retires the second date will be filled in by his successor.

Impudent students at Teddy Hall have been circulating copies of an item in these pages on 20 May 1994, which sketched in some facts about Mr Bourne-Taylor's background.

When he was a Metropolitan police inspector in charge of Sutton police station in 1982, Bourne-Taylor ruined the career of a loyal officer, PC Gordon Warren, whom he sacked for not attending a blue movies party. Mr Warren fought for many years to clear his name and eventually won enormous compensation.

In 1984 Bourne-Taylor became an instructor in human awareness at Hendon Police Training College, where he edited a house journal called *The Peeler*. "We are," he announced in one issue, "organising



frank nude encounter groups in the changing room after swimming... so friends, be happy and always blow a kiss to your friend in the staff whenever you feel like it." With a past like that, Mr Bourne Taylor could hardly fail to be appointed bursar at St Edmund Hall, though he did feel it necessary to promote himself with a medal he never won and a post he never held. For some reason none of these facts was considered appropriate for the touching engraving near the college chapel.

Do not feed on the pigeons

■ TOM LEHRER's famous old song *Poisoning Pigeons in the Park* was not as satirical as he imagined.

The agriculture ministry's joint food safety and standards group (JFSSG) issues a special warning in its May bulletin. "Feral pigeons close to BNFL's Sellafield are contaminated to significant levels with radioactivity. The JFSSG has recommended that pigeons found in a ten-mile radius of the Sellafield site should not be handled, slaughtered or consumed."

A ministry spokesman tells the *Eye* that the warning applies only to pigeons. "Duck, for instance, and other birds are quite OK," he says.

FACT TO REMEMBER: The secretary of state for agriculture who issued the warning is Jack Cunningham, Sellafield's MP and a long-standing supporter of BNFL.

COUNTERPAIN Pt. 94

■ AFTER asserting again and again that they would "vigorously" contest claims of unlawful dismissal during the privatisation ("franchising") of three West London crown offices, the post office has vigorously collapsed and made an enormous offer which couldn't be refused.

The case was set down for 13 and 14 May. On 8 May post office lawyers started to make offers to settle. Early offers of £100 a sacked worker were contemptuously rejected, and at the last moment the offer was increased to, er, £625 per sacked worker, and accepted.

Members of the public in Kensington Church Street, Queensway and Ealing who have to put up with atrocious standards in newly-privatised post offices now have the added comfort of knowing the process has cost an extra £25,000 public money.

High Principals

WHISTLEBLOWING DOWN THE WIND

■ "A CHARTER for whistleblowers" was the impassioned demand of Derek Davis MP, chairman of the Commons public accounts committee (PAC), when he published his report into the amazing scandals at Glasgow Caledonian University. "Staff," said Mr Davis, "should be encouraged to speak up and speak out when they witness wrongdoing."

This outburst amused Prof John Pickering, former deputy vice-chancellor, and Mrs Bonnie Tall, former secretary to the vice-chancellor, at Portsmouth University. The story of how both blew the whistle on the expense fiddling of a former vice-chancellor and got sacked for their pains was told in detail in *Eye* 939 in December.

BONNIE TALL

Bonnie Tall's case was used as a "telling example of the need for the bill" by Richard Shepherd MP as he pushed his recent public interest disclosure bill through the Commons. But wait. The Portsmouth University scandal was investigated last year by the national audit office (NAO), which reports to the public accounts committee and Mr Davis. A wonderful opportunity, surely, for the NAO to take a stand on protection for whistleblowers. Not so, however.

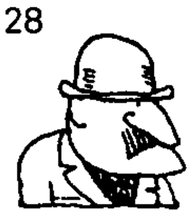
The report says there is "no evidence" that either of the whistleblowers "were penalised or persecuted in any way" as a result of blowing the whistle. Nonsense. Mrs Tall was sacked directly because she reported her boss for fiddling public funds. She even won her case for unfair dismissal. If Mr Davis really wants to protect whistleblowers, perhaps he should start by sorting out the compromisers at the national audit office.

PS: Mrs Tall has not only lost her job. She has also been flung out of her union, Unison. The union's only explanation is that she is no longer working, though thousands of Unison members keep their membership when they lose their jobs. Perhaps Unison chiefs at the university are so thick with management they feel obliged to expel sacked whistleblowers.

HUISH AND CRY

■ AFTER mass protests about his abrasive management style, and some inquiries into his exciting career as principal of Huish College, near Taunton (see *Eye* 948), Mr Paul Brennan has resigned as head of the sixth form at London's City and Islington college. He held the post for slightly less than six months.

You can write to Paul Foot at Carlisle Street, London W1V 5RG, or leave a message for him on 0171 287 3183



In the City

FORMER tax guru and bankrupt Roy Tucker is about to make a stock market comeback. The man whose tax avoidance schemes powered the Rossminster tax advisory group, which cost the treasury hundreds of millions in lost tax in the 1970s, is a major shareholder in Willard Mining, a Malawi ruby mine which is looking for a listing later this year.

Tucker and his associate David Hargreaves are said to control around half the Willard shares. Knowing Tucker this will doubtless be via offshore trusts. Willard is estimated to be worth £40m. For Tucker this will be his first involvement with a public company since the glory days of Rossminster when it controlled stakes in several listed companies.

But that heyday, which made Tucker and his part ner Ronald Plummer offshore multi-millionaires, ended in July 1979 when the Inland Revenue raided the homes and offices of all those involved in running Rossminster as part of its biggest ever criminal tax fraud investigation. Tucker operated independently providing the schemes which Rossminster — controlled by the Plummer and Tucker trusts — sold.

Despite the raids and the seizure of vast numbers of files, it was decided in 1983 that no prosecution should be brought by the Revenue over Rossminster's activities. Instead the following year the Revenue demanded £16m each from Ron and Roy — at that time the biggest tax demand ever made from an individual. This was finally settled in 1989 when the Revenue accepted almost £6m in settlement of the claims for unpaid tax.

Plummer took himself off to Monte Carlo and Florida but Tucker continued to live in his trust-owned medieval Kent mansion doing what he did best: devising clever tax avoidance schemes which exploited unforeseen legal loopholes.

But he had always been interested in mining. Indeed it was an unsuccessful South African emerald mine venture which caused his surprising 1985 bankruptcy. Surprising because Tucker was made bankrupt over his refusal to pay out on a guarantee for only $400,000 — at a time when the Revenue was claiming he owed tax of £18.5m. But then most of the Tucker assets and income was held by offshore trusts rather than personally.

It will be interesting to see how much of this colourful history is disclosed when Willard goes public.

MEANWHILE across the Atlantic another bankrupt blast from the past: the "totally and markedly dishonest" Roger Levitt, is raising his sights in his bid to become a big time boxing promoter. "The Dodger" is looking to find a reputed $14m to put on the geriatric heavyweight championship of the world between George Foreman (50 next birthday) and Larry Holmes (49 next birthday). Levitt says the boxers are signed up which, according to the Foreman camp, means Levitt has had to pay an up to $1.4m down payment. Levitt — who is wanted by the Department of Timidity & Inaction, if by nobody else, for acting as a director while disqualified — is now looking for a casino and TV to finance the rest of the purses.

Things have certainly looked up for "The Dodger" since the DTI screwed up its bid to extradite him from New York last year. His growing stable of fighters includes a world champion, light middleweight Keith Mullings. And chez Levitt in St John's Wood has been sold. Presumably at a profit, given the housing market, on the £800,000-plus paid in 1995. How much of the proceeds went to the mysterious Theriac Trust in Geneva, which put up some of the purchase price alongside the Nationwide, is unknown. All told "The Dodger" has made good use of the money from defrauding investors and clients of Levitt Group.

THE conviction of longtime stock market manipulator Clive Smith and his accomplices John Clarke and Kenneth Clews was a close run thing. And not just because the jury took a record 66 hours to find Smith guilty of the £50m Butte Mining fraud. Since the trial began in June last year lawyers representing Smith and other defendants had been busy seeking to stop the trial, believing perhaps — as proved to be the case — that this was their best shot of avoiding a stay at HMP Ford.

In April last year Smith's lawyers objected to an *Eye* article which mentioned the forthcoming trial in relation to the MP for Sleaze, Neil Hamilton, whose 1994 resignation as a minister had been connected to the Butte investigation. Much more serious objection was taken by Smith and the other defendants three months later over references to Smith in that most innocuous of publications, the annual report of the Serious Farce Office.

As a result the 1,200 copies of the report were recalled from HMSO book shops and public libraries. The police were asked to study the till roll at the HMSO shop in Holborn — a short walk from the courtroom in Chancery Lane — and track down the nine purchasers in case any of them were jurors. This proved the jury could not have bought the report — a somewhat unlikely prospect — as they were in court at the time of the sales.

The defence also objected to the triumphalist tone in the report and subsequent comments by SFO director Rosalind Wright trumpeting the SFO's improved conviction rate and the fact that it obtained convictions in most trials.

However, trial judge Mr Justice Newman ruled the show must go on, rejecting applications for the trial to be stayed or the jury discharged.

But then in September came another problem when a juror named Malone was overheard discussing the trial with a witness. Malone said he and other jurors found the trial "boring". The witness described one of the defence counsel as "ill prepared". Needless to say, Malone had to go to keep the Butte show on the road.

In November the trial judge had to step in again when he became concerned about jurors passing notes to each other on the legal notepads designed purely for noting the evidence and legal wit and wisdom. He warned the jurors against being distracted. After almost six months this was perhaps understandable.

But the greatest threat to the trial came in February with the discovery of a group photograph arranged by the jury under the headline "Free the Butte 11" together with several complaints about what they had to endure while doing their civic duty. Two jurors in particular further irritated counsel by persisting in passing clearly humorous notes to each other.

"Now we've out-sourced, down-sized, re-engineered, up-graded, relocated and contracted-out, I can't remember what it is we actually do"

The defence once again also objected to an *Eye* article, this time concerning the home office review of whether juries should continue to be used in long fraud trials. The Butte trial — now in its ninth month — was not named but defence lawyers claimed it could be identified. They also objected to comments about "fat cats" aboard the legal aid gravy train. Wonder why?

Once again the judge ruled the trial must go on which it did for almost another three months. But given this background and the fact that all the verdicts had to be reached by ten jurors when a second was discharged, it would not be surprising if the court of appeal decided the whole multi-million pound exercise had to be done again. Trebles and large brief fees all round!

AMERICAN broker Prudential-Bache is caught in the middle of a puzzling legal debate about who owns $15m held by the broker. The dispute concerns at least two offshore companies and behind them some unidentified investors. The two companies in dispute are Citadel Enterprises from the Isle of Man and Euro-Mac from Liechtenstein. Last January Citadel won a judgment for $32.25m damages and interest against Euro-Mac. This followed its claim for breach of a 1996 contract with the Vaduz company. This contract was in turn linked to a later contract between Citadel and another company, Matrix International. These transactions attracted the attention of City regulators as they appeared to be part of an investment scheme which was projecting unusually high returns, perhaps well in excess of 100 percent. The nature of the transactions, together with the dispute over ownership of the funds, may also explain Pru-Bache's concern. It declined to release the funds after taking advice from regulators and Scotland Yard. A high court judge has ordered an inquiry into who owns the $15m held by Pru-Bache.

'Slicker'

CHOOSE THE
CHOOSE PLANE
CHOOSE
THE TIME
CHOOSE THE
FREEDOM
CHOOSE
AIR LONDON

AIR LONDON PLC
01293 549555
http://www.airlondon.com

Is **Au** right for you?

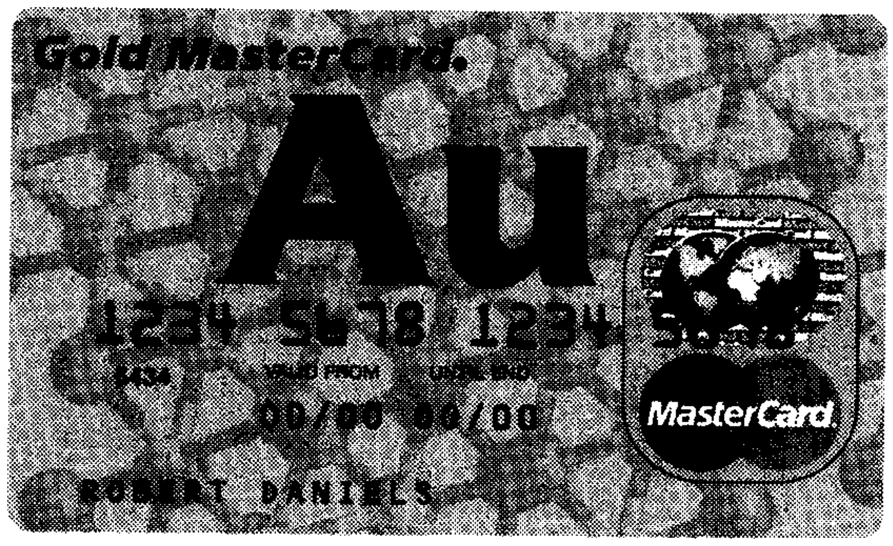
Are you right for **Au**?

9.9% APR for balance transfers

13.9% APR standard rate

No annual fee

And up to 56 days interest free



Earn at least £20,000

Have a good credit record

Like to keep a balance

Already have a credit card

If you'd like a better kind of credit card, you should apply for Au - a new Gold MasterCard.

Because we're very selective about who gets Au, our cardholders don't subsidise other people's bad debts.

That means you pay just **9.9% APR** for the first year on balance transfers, and only 13.9% APR standard rate - so you enjoy excellent value. See below to find out how much you could save.

9.9% APR
balance transfers for 12 months
13.9% APR
standard rate

So if you think Au is right for you, and you're right for Au, call us free on **0800 000 197** or send back the coupon.

Au. Not everyone gets it.
Will you?

Card	Annual Fee	APR	Au saving* over 1 year
Au Gold MasterCard	Nil	**9.9%**	N/A
Barclaycard standard Visa	£10	**22.0%**	**£215.20**
NatWest standard Visa	£12	**20.8%**	**£195.60**
Midland standard MasterCard	£12	**20.6%**	**£192.00**
Goldfish MasterCard	Nil	**19.8%**	**£174.00**

Call free on **0800 000 197**

Please return to **Au Card, FREEPOST SEA3002, Mitre House, Kingston KT2 6BR.** We'll send you full information about Au.

Quote Ref: R 2 8 5

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Address

Postcode

Telephone (Home/Work)

Au

MasterCard

Note: Unavailable to persons under 21 years of age. Written quotations are available. Subject to status. Cardholder is required to make monthly payments within 25 days of statement date of at least the minimum sum specified on statement which shall not be less than 5% of the outstanding balance or £5, whichever is greater, or the full amount due if less than £5. Current rates as at 1 May 1998. *Above savings are based on transferring a balance of £2,000, which remains constant for a year. Balance transfer rate 9.9% APR fixed for 12 months, standard rate 13.9% APR variable. The above APRs include the annual fee where applied. The Au card balance transfer rate is shown. The rates for all other cards are their standard rates and exclude any short term special offers. APRs are based on a credit limit of £3,500. The company may monitor or record telephone conversations with the aim of improving its service.

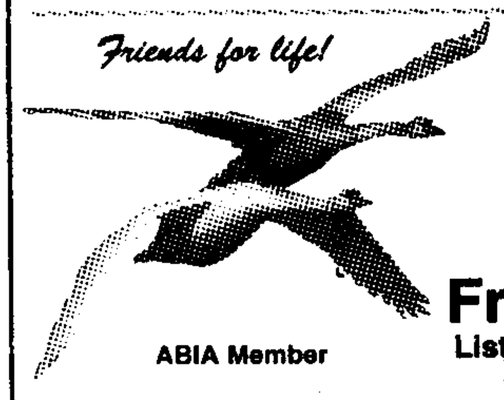
RBS Cards Limited. Registered Office: 42 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YE. Registered in Scotland Number 160 111. A Royal Bank of Scotland Company.

specialEYEs

meeting people

Meet by
SIRIUS

Friends for life!



ABIA Member

Free Profiles

The Introduction Agency for the intelligent, articulate and well educated. Would you like a detailed description* of every member in your local area, before you decide to join? Certainly! Call us free and ask for your free Information Pack.

0800 542 3000

Free Club Magazine

Listing nearly 10,000 current members

*** anonymity maintained at all times**

Cert FS36513

8.30am to 10.30pm 7 days a week or write FREEPOST 305 London EC1B 1SY

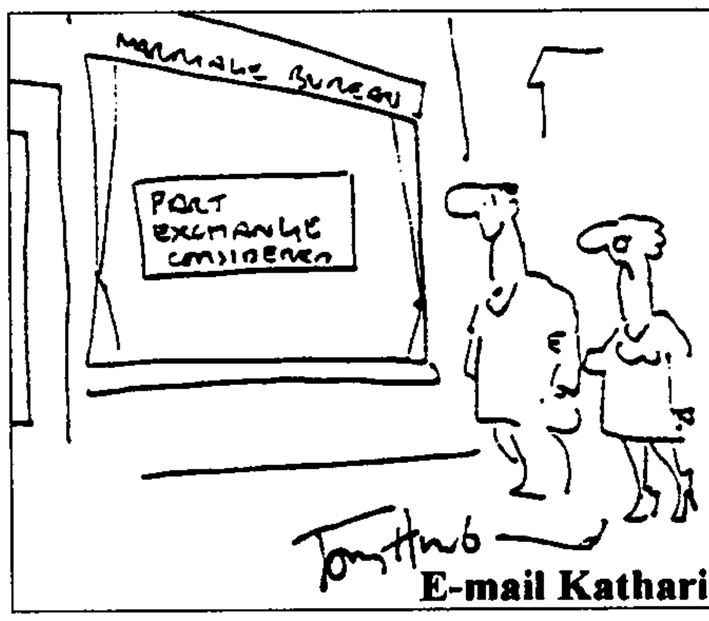
gifts

London Cartoon Gallery

44 Museum Street, London, WC1A 1LY
Open: Monday–Saturday, 10am–6pm

Offering for sale original works by:
Steven Appleby, Steve Bell, McLachlan, Nick Newman, Kipper Williams, Riddell, Tony Husband, David Austin, Peattie & Taylor, Lowry, Searle, Matt, Honeysett, Donegan, Cluff, Willie Rushton, and numerous others.

For further information please telephone 0171 242 5335 or fax 0171 242 2978

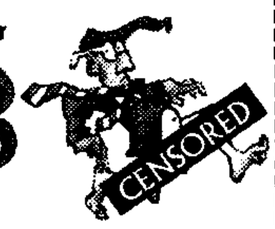


Sorry Fred, (or Freda), all *our* clients must be *legally* free to marry.

We're *serious!*

Katharine Allen Bureau
(Established 1960)
18 Thayer Street
London W1M 5LD
Tel: 0171 935 3115
E-mail Katharine.Allen@BTinternet.com

WHERE'S WILLY?



NOT TO BE MISTAKEN FOR WALLY.
HILARIOUS I-SPY BOOK FOR ADULTS OF ALL AGES. GREAT GIFT.
£6.99 inc. p&p
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
T:Shirts and gift packs available
Tel: 01932 821448 10am to 6pm
RE:DESIGN
27 QUEENS ROAD
WEYBRIDGE
SURREY KT13 9UG

GENUINE BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS

From largest archives saved from the past. Printed between 1642-1998. Sunday Newspapers from 1915. Ready for presentation. Same day dispatch.

REMEMBER WHEN
520 Purley Way,
Croydon, Surrey
CR0 4RE.

VHS PE

0181 688 6323

clubs

The
Blue Angel Club

welcomes you and your friends for a really unforgettable evening. Drink, or dine and dance in luxurious surroundings and be served or entertained by our Angels.
Open Monday to Friday from 6.30 until late.
Membership not required.

17 Little Portland Street, London W1N 5DE Tel: 0171 636 2178

BOOBS DON'T COME ANY BIGGER...

than the Millennium computer wipe-out!

Now you can buy the commemorative t-shirts & car window stickers.
3 brain-melting designs on 100% cotton, premium quality white T's. Large & XL.
Only £13 each, includes p+p.
Buy all 3 and get a car sticker FREE!
window stickers, (design 3 only) measure 9.5cm x 7cm.
White on clear acetate.
£2.50 each includes p+p.
Make out cheques or money orders to: WYNOTT CO.
Allow 18 days for delivery

Wynott Co. Barnsdale, Exton Ave, Oakham, Rutland LE15 8AH

ANY RECORD YOU'VE EVER WANTED COULD BE YOURS!

BEANOS

THE LARGEST SECOND - HAND RECORD STORE IN EUROPE

MIDDLE STREET, CROYDON
SOUTH LONDON
MAIL ORDER SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE - 0181 680 1202
E-mail beanos@easynet.co.uk

THE specialEYEs PAGES CAN WORK FOR YOU

CALL
DEBORAH ROOS ON
0171-704 3425
TO FIND OUT MORE

MADISON BELL LTD

drink

++Ten Years of Innovation++
++Ten Years of Excellence++

EVIAN

EURO BLEND
CARBOHYDRATE DRINK MIX
Advanced 1 Hour Formula

One hour after drinking Euro Blend, your urine may be pure for between 4 to 5 hours.

For more Information or to place an order call/fax Dot UK on: 01525 370 702

LABOUR CABINET FOR SALE

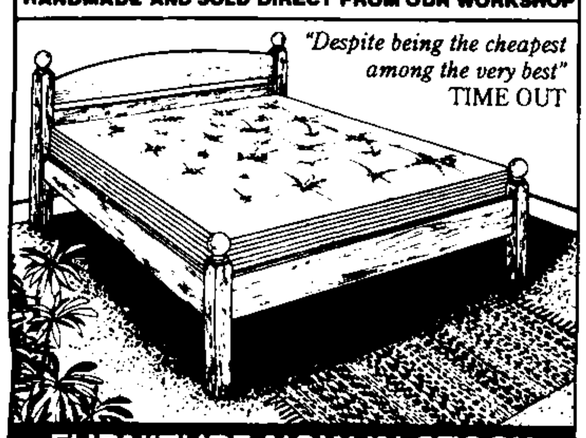
24 X 17in Print
Was £10.00
Now only £2.95 inc. P/P.
10+ Prints £2.75 each inc. P/P. 100+ £2.50.
Original, Cost £900.
Now £395 + 50 Prints.
Cheques/P.O. to
DARNELL DESIGNS
1 Chase Gardens
Binfield
Berks
RG42 4HY

Tel - 0468 808601

for sale

TAURUS PINE BEDS

HANDMADE AND SOLD DIRECT FROM OUR WORKSHOP



"Despite being the cheapest among the very best" TIME OUT

FURNITURE NOW IN STOCK

242 KILBURN HIGH ROAD LONDON NW6
OPEN SEVEN DAYS
FREE BROCHURE 0171 624 3024

A terrific PRESENT for your car-mad son, brother, husband or chum

BIRTHDAY AUTOCAR!

It's a vintage 'AUTOCAR' car magazine published the very same week he was born. We have genuine issues for most weeks dating back to 1940, and they're just £14.95 each (inc p&p)
ORDER LINE: 0171 727 6461
Delivery in 21 days, subject to availability

services

SPEECHWRITING SERVICES
CORPORATE • SOCIAL • POLITICAL
Fully Customised and confidential
MAKE EM LAUGH OR NO FEE!
Emergency Speeches Undertaken
Britain's leading Professional
MITCH MURRAY
01624 622660
Access - Visa - Mastercard

WIND UP YOUR FRIENDS!

Call one of the numbers below, put it through to a mate - *then wait for the reaction!*

Invite to Number 10
0336 405411
The Detective
0336 405412
Mr. Stammer
0336 405413
Mr. Fury
0336 405414
My Daughter's Pregnant
0336 405415
JOKELINES, PO BOX 43, WARMINSTER, WILTS BA12 7RJ
Calls cost 50p/min at all times

the Phone Café

24 HRS
WHERE ALL THE WOMEN ARE GENUINE CALLERS
DON'T GET MONKEYED AROUND
0891 30 31 71
Calls cost 50p/min at all times
PO Box No 28, 93 Cowcross St, London EC1M 6BH

Architectural PLANTS

PECULIAR NURSERY
PECULIAR PLANTS
PECULIAR GARDENS
For Free Catalogue Contact :
Architectural Plants, Nuthurst, Horsham
West Sussex RH13 6LH
01403 891772
SEE WHAT YOU THINK

travel

Cycling
Dordogne or Bordeaux Vineyards
Personally designed to show you the best of Europe's most beautiful areas.
Top quality bikes
Carefully selected hotels, Excellent food
Small, guided groups, a stunning week that shows France at her best.
The Chain Gang
Cycle Tours Ltd
Please call for a brochure
0171 323 1730

Small group holidays off the beaten track...
MIDDLE EAST AFRICA ASIA
EUROPE FAR EAST AMERICAS
For superb brochure call:
01420 541007
TRAVELBAG Adventures
Travelbag Adventures (WPE)
15 Turk Street, Alton, Hants GU34 1AG
www.travelbag-adventures.co.uk ABTA ATOL 2959

musical instruments

YOU can play the sax!
Learn at your own pace at home with the SAX PACK including TUITION VIDEO!

£100 for 3 months Rental. Options to renew, return or buy less all the rent paid! List price £595 Or buy outright at the offer price of £499 including 24 hour delivery
Everything you need to get started. Alto Sax, mouthpiece, case, stand, reeds & accessories.
Unlimited friendly advice ensures success
(also tenor & soprano)
Online Internet Sax Catalogue
www.saxophones.co.uk
Phone/fax for free information pack, rental form or immediate dispatch of credit card sales
01892 655644
The Sax Rental Co
East Sussex UK
(we sell saxes too)

publishing

ARE YOU EAGER TO HAVE YOUR BOOK PUBLISHED?

You probably know by now that if you are not already on the best seller list the chances are you will have to pay a fee to get your book published. The question is...**Who Do You Trust?**

For over 15 years The Pentland Press has been helping writers just like you to realize their dreams. Every year we transform over 125 writers into **published** authors. If the desire to be a published author is sufficient motivation to invest in your ability, then The Pentland Press can help you . For more information telephone or write to:

Michael McInally
Executive Editor
The Pentland Press (PY)
1 Hutton Close
South Church
Bishop Auckland
Durham
DL14 6XB

TEL: 01388 776555 FAX: 01388 776766

music specialists

CLASSIC ALBUMS AS YOU'VE NEVER HEARD THEM BEFORE
MASTERED FROM THE ORIGINAL SESSION TAPES AND PRESSED ON 24 CARAT GOLD - CD'S SO GOOD YOU WON'T BELIEVE YOUR EARS

A SELECTION OF CURRENT TITLES:
DEEP PURPLE: MADE IN JAPAN - £19.95
THE DOORS: LA WOMAN - £19.95
THE EAGLES: HOTEL CALIFORNIA - £19.95
PAUL McCARTNEY & WINGS: BAND ON THE RUN - £19.95
JETHRO TULL: LIVING IN THE PAST (2CD) - £31.95
STEPPENWOLF: STEPPENWOLF - £21.95
CREAM: WHEELS OF FIRE (2CD) - £31.95
DON HENLEY: THE END OF INNOCENCE - £21.95

TO ORDER OR TO RECEIVE A FREE AUDIOPHILE CD OR VINYL CATALOGUE, CONTACT
VIVANTE
UNIT 4, 60 HIGH STREET, HAMPTON WICK, SURREY KT1 4DB
TEL: 0181 977 6600 FAX: 0181 977 4445
EUROPE'S PREMIER AUDIOPHILE MAIL ORDER COMPANY

TO ADVERTISE ON THE *special*EYE*s* PAGES CALL DEBORAH ROOS
ON 0171-704 3425
FOR ALL OTHER DISPLAY ADVERTISING CONTACT JAMES RANFT
ON 0171-704 3428
MADISON BELL LTD
speyes@madibell.demon.co.uk

PRIVATE EYE SMALLS
Classified Linage
0171 354 5386

Deadline for next issue
— 29th MAY

QUOTE:
Make your own postcards from old cardboard cartons and cereal boxes. ***Thrift Tip,*** **Daily Mail.**

EYE SAY

SPEECHWRITING by Mitch Murray – see page 31.

BITCH WOMAN FROM HELL – I love you with all my heart. **GRUMPY BOLLOCKS.** (See what a Vileda can do Glennis?)

EYE NOVELTIES

INTERESTING MAPS and old BONDS for the discerning giver. Call 01376 571711 or Fax 01376 570125.

WE GET EVEN ON YOUR BEHALF
practical jokes, etc.
Call JOHN 0181 787 7000
write RIS,
Seedbed Centre, Langston Road,
Loughton, Essex, IG10 3TQ

CARICATURES – "Rotton Stinkers!" from your photographs/'live' at Occasion: 01730 821171.

IMPRESSIVE CERTIFICATES made to order. S.A.E. to PL Quinn, 54 Murat Street, Waterloo, LIVERPOOL L22 8QW. degreee@cableinet.co.uk

OBTAIN A TITLE – Sir, Lord, Lady, Baron etc – effective inheritable and non-inheritable titles from £247 – ENGLISH TITLES 01803 858644.

FLYING, GLIDING, helicopters, motor racing, rallying, vintage aircraft, ballooning, simulators, skydiving. Introductory GIFT VOUCHERS from £55 valid 100+ locations nationwide. Free brochure: ACORN SPORTS – 01494 451703.

CARICATURES FROM PHOTO – tel/fax 01327 359213.

PERSONALISED coir DOOR MATS! Your text printed and delivered from £15.99 — 24hr brochure request: 01579 382358.

CARICATURES FROM PHOTOS
the ultimate
personalised gift,
by professional cartoonist
from only £30
01227 362893.

THE YELLOW ROLLS ROYCE
1935 Gentleman's Touring Saloon is available for special occasions.
Correct liveried chauffeur.
Kent/Surrey/Sussex
0370 316482 or 01892 770310
e-mail gavin.mcguire@virgin.net

A TITLE FOR A TENNER? Indubitably! Details from SURVIVAL, (P), 'Norcot', Main Street, LYBSTER, Caithness KW3 6AQ.

BALLOON FLIGHTS Berks/Hants/Herts/Oxon/Surrey & over London! £115 – Adventure Balloons 01252 844222.

COLOUR CARICATURES – fast and funny. Tel: 01245 460374 / 0378 152787.

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY newspapers – FREEPHONE 0800 906609.

PERSONALISED NEWSPAPER
you decide what should be
FRONT PAGE NEWS
– we compose
YOUR FRONT PAGE
£18.
Telephone: 0181 295 5620.

EYE BET

GAMBLE? I ALWAYS WIN! Details: MERLINS, 68 Horsfall Street, LEEDS, LS27 9QY.

FANCY A FLUTTER WITH A GUARANTEED RETURN?
Find us on:
http://www.fairgame.demon.co.uk
or phone
0113 2328807

RELIABLE PEOPLE SOUGHT for lucrative gambling venture. Call now: 0033 148 753758.

EYE WIN – YOU CAN TOO!
Free Trial.
NEMESIS,
PO Box 11304,
Banff,AB45 1YE.

EYE SELL

EXOTIC PLANTS for CONSERVATORIES, orangeries, indoor pools. Visitors welcome – mail order. THE CONSERVATORY, GOMSHALL. 01483 203019.

OLD PERSIAN RUGS – Mostly £100-£3,000. Shed not shop, telephone first. DESMOND NORTH, East Peckham, Kent. 01622 871353.

LIMITED OR PLC COMPANIES: £90 – brochure: FREEPHONE 0800 526421, e-mail: cosun@drink.demon.co.uk

COPIERS/FAX – 0800 4580006, www.mimesis.com

ORIENTAL RUGS, KILIMS and textiles. Expired and surplus brown envelopes stuffed full of cash accepted in part exchange. DENNIS WOODMAN at Kew East, exit Kew Gardens Station, Wednesday-Sunday 10-6 – 0181 878 8182.

IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD of love GET STUFFED at RICHER SOUNDS. Freephone 0500 10 11 12 (24 hours) for your FREE 24-page CATALOGUE-BRANCH LIST or visit our website at www.richersounds.com

GROW ANYTHING, ANYWHERE, anytime. GROWELL hydroponics & plant lighting. 07000 HYDROPONICS (493 767) – free brochure.

EYE READ

GRIMSBY 7 MAN U 0? Check it out inn "YESSS!!!! United In Defeat". Red humiliations galore. £5.50. INJURY TIME PUBLICATIONS, Keepers Cottage, Wassand Estate, Seaton, HU11 5RJ. 01964 534798. "Excellent" – D. Mirror.

HOWARD MARKS TO SchNEWS – www.freedombooks.co.uk – 01705 780600.

SHORT STORY POWER
"Lord of the Zips"
by DAVID INTERNETT
£500 cash total to be paid out on
Saturday, May 30th, 2pm,
at Park Walk Primary School,
Chelsea SW6.
To qualify for cash prizes, first buy copy of book,
£1 from
BOOKS BOUGHT BOOKSHOP,
357 Kings Road, London SW3
(0171 352 9376)
or send s.a.e. plus 5 1st-class stamps.
All proceeds to school above.

OUT OF PRINT BOOKS found – no obligation to purchase – 01376 562334.

US BOOKS – US PRICES on line at www.bookstore.co.uk or phone 01494 882252.

AWESOME INSIGHTS – GUARANTEED TO ENLIGHTEN about Comparative Religion – Metaphysics – the unfolding of History www.the-wisdom-store.com

ANYBOOK, ANYWHERE – http://www.bookstore.co.uk – 01494 882252.

EYE LEARN

UNIVERSITY LIFE-EXPERIENCE degrees – 0161 795 3056.

CARTOONING – draw cartoons THAT SELL. Complete course £24.95. Details: 0151 920 7443.

INTENSIVE DRIVING COURSES – pre-test and advanced. Centres nationwide – 01248 853970.

BARCELONA – Learning Spanish, living in teacher's house. Any age. Fax: 0034 3 3718725.

GLIDING COURSES – spectacular Scottish Highlands. 01631 740316.

EYE GO OUT

LAST TICKETS AVAILABLE
for Clare College
MAY BALL
15 June 1998
Details from
www.clareball.com

EYE WANT

USA PUBLISHER now in London wants agents/distributors to get publication in UK shops. Write to BCM STAGEDOOR, London WC1N 3XX.

BLIGHTED BY FACTORY FARM.
Noise/stench, complacent council.
Any solutions?
Legal help? Others with similar?
Details from
01772 616370 evenings.

HAVE YOU HAD a radical career or lifestyle change? If so, researcher would like to hear from you. Box 3951.

GAY EXPERIENCE in Arabic country? £20 INTERVIEW FEE possible – 0441 149711 (mobile) OR 0171 585 2502.

SUPPLIERS WANTED,
for up and coming
GADGET SHOP.
Anything considered, original and unusual items especially sought after. Also products which are pseudo-scientific. Ring 01703 336127 or 0958 797183

EYE HELP

AFTER DINNER SPEAKER offers speech about commercial freedom in the modern western world – 01202 267363.

FENG SHUI CONSULTANT – excellent results. Reasonable fees. 0171 834 0081.

CHANCERY HOUSE
319 City Road,
London EC1V 1LJ
MAIL HOLDING/FORWARDING.
TEL/FAX SERVICE.
Private boxes with
24-hr access.
0171 833 4600.

PANAMA – going in August. Want connections? (01253 722663).

ACCOMMODATION ADDRESS guaranteed confidential & discreet. Mail, phone, fax services and short-term room hire, London N3. 0181 343 2316.

DEBT PROBLEMS? Chartered Accountant negotiates settlements of called-in bank overdrafts, personal guarantees/repossession shortfalls – success only basis. 0171 224 1231.

CONFIDENTIAL MAILING address – interesting range low-profile privacy related services and products. 0181 556 2979 for brochure.

PROFESSIONAL let you down? We deal with PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE – including SOLICITORS. Call Robert Festenstein, *Solicitor*, on 0161 833 0578.

ACCOMMODATION ADDRESS
discreet, confidential
mail/message-holding service.
REGENT STREET
0171 580 4242.
Forget the rest – we're the best!

BANKRUPTCY ASSOCIATION – 01524 64305.

SPEECHWRITING by MITCH MURRAY – See Page 31.

EYE HEAR

PINK CADILLAC: 50s ROCK'N'ROLL band. Weddings/Parties/Functions. 01707 895 162.

INNOVATIVE ENTERTAINMENT for all functions. Mindreaders, spoof waiters, comic songsters, bands, discos. SPOTLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT'S – 01403 275020.

EYE EARN

AMATEUR CARTOONISTS wanted – Zebra Publishing, 4 Lindsey Street, London EC1A 9HP.

MINIMUM
300% YEAR RETURN
anticipated on
investment syndicate.
http://www.fairgame.demon.co.uk
or phone
0113 232 8807.

ASPIRING MILLIONAIRES – why wait?! Not MLM, Networking, or Franchising. Call: 0181 236 4904.

MORTGAGE LICENSEES DUPED or dissatisfied? These century cowboys? Telephone 01232 466283.

TELECOMS REVOLUTION 07000 560646.

WOULD YOU LIKE to retire three years from now with an income for life of £10,000 per month?? Find out how with Britain's BEST investment/opportunity magazine. Send for your FREE copy (please enclose 2x26p stamps) to: W.M.S., P.O. Box 1, WALLASEY, L44 8JE. 0151 630 0933.

NEVER AGAIN be without money – earn fortune from adult dating and phone-lines. Free info: 07000 780794, Ext 222.

EYE DETECT

PRIVATE DETECTIVE: 0121 242 2915 – 0121 684 3226 (fax).

LINK INVESTIGATIONS – Private and Commercial Investigators – Tracing Debtors, Lost Family and Friends, Matrimonial, Surveillance, Photographic Evidence, Witness Statements, Undercover Agents, Test Purchases, Staff Vetting, Fraud, De-Bugging, Professional and Discreet. Operative 24 hours a day. Tel: 01737 844824. Fax: 01737 844688.

BUGGING DEVICE – transmits to FM radio £12.95. Cheques/POs MICROTECH, Chestnut Road, Guildford GU1 1HG. Visa/Access 01483 570417, 0374 949630.

MERLIN INVESTIGATIONS – journalism to surveillance – no stone unturned. Telephone: 01992 767257; Fax: 01992 767277; Mobile: 0802 734489; merlin999@bigfoot.com

EYE ESCAPE

MOST LAIDBACK SAILING in the Aegean. Classic yawl built England 1900. Owner/Skipper with over 10 years experience of GREEK/TURKISH WATERS, welcomes 4-6 guests. Phone direct to Skipper for details and bookings. Mobile phone number: 93985951 (with prefix 0030 for Greece). UK contact: 01323 811316.

EXPLORE WORLDWIDE – 170 small group adventures in more than 90 countries... Sail a tallship in the South Pacific, see the Greek Coast by caique, paddle a dugout canoe in Botswana's Okavango Delta... Offbeat tours in Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia, Americas, Australasia. 1-6 weeks from £345. Call 01252 344161 for brochure. Bonded AITO/ATOL 2595.

MURDER WEEKENDS and other ideas. WWW.Mayhem.org.uk. Telephone 0181 959 6579 for brochure.

STIMULATING, INEXPENSIVE special interest holidays around the INDIAN HIMALAYAS – 4X4 self-drive Jeep Safaris, Geological, Wildlife, Motorcycling, Fishing, 26 days Treks from £550.Call HIMALAYAN FOLKWAYS 01323 422213. Alternatively visit www.steali.co.uk/chandertal-tours

MARINE BIOLOGY
holiday course at
MILLPORT MARINE STATION,
Scotland.
Tel: 01475 530581.

HORSE-HIRE – no escorts. Trails 2-7 days. Wales. Stay farms/inns. Telephone FreeRein, 01497 821356.

BRITTANNY – self-catering holidays. Tel: 0033 299 694442.

COTSWOLD GLIDING CLUB. 5-day holiday courses inclusive of all flying and instructions. Prices from £285. Brochure: tel 01285 760415.

AFRICAN SAFARIS – 4 to 21 weeks camping adventures. For the best value game-watching & sightseeing, telephone PHOENIX EXPEDITIONS 01509-881818.

AWARD WINNING guided KAYAK-TOURS with SeaCanoe International in THAILAND, VIETNAM, the PHILIPPINES, POLYNESIA and LAOS. Ask about our videos. A true back to nature experience. info@seacanoe.com http://seacanoe.com Tel/Fax: 0171 691 9348.

GREECE – CYCLADES – now even cheaper. Magical Aegean islands – Mykonos, Paros, Antiparos, Naxos, Santorini, Sifnos, etc. Studios, tavernas, small hotels, as quiet or as lively as you choose. Inclusive Holidays with SIMPLY SIMON HOLIDAYS 0171 373 1933. ATOL2578.

VISIT VIETNAM – Brochure 0171 727 5299.

AFRICAN CAMPING safaris for the adventurous traveller – 3 weeks to 7 months from £330 – make 1998 your year to do something different! Tel: TRUCK AFRICA 0171 731 6142. www.truckafrica.com

EYE FLY

FLIGHT OPTIONS – telephone booking service. Tel: 01432 851062, Fax: 01432 850722, HENRY ROGERS, ATOL 3793.

WORLDWIDE LOWEST prices allegedly! Tel: 01942 603599 / 680268. Fax: 01942 670868. Agents ATOL holders.

CONSULT THE ORACLE! Affordable travel expertly predicted! Fully bonded. Tel/Fax: 01904 608941. Email: roywills@compuserve.com

LOWCOST WORLDWIDE flight specialists. Call 0171 287 1222, IATA/ATOL 3424.

EYE LET

GREECE – locally owned apartments to let/for sale in Stoupa, a superbly laid-back sea-side village in the beautiful southern Peloponees. Sleeps from 2 to 6 people. Phone for details: 01422 884792.

ST TROPEZ, June 15-30. Fully equipped studio, 2-6, Central. £150 pw. 01788 832252.

PEAK DISTRICT RURAL IDYLL – converted barn, sleeps 4. Summer vacancies. 01298 84515.

SUMMER IN NEW YORK CITY: friendly B&B in artists loft w.garden. Daily/Weekly rentals Tel/Fax 001 212 6743393 or dp_ml@earthlink.net

MARRAKESH – charming, traditional 7-roomed house in Old City. Terrace. Views Atlas. Sleeps 6-8. Cook/Maid service included. £250 p.w. – 0171 480 7998.

EYE NEED

SPONSORS NEEDED – at 15 SHAUN is set to become British BMX riding champion. Desperately needs £10,000 to attend European and World Championship. Donations welcome or send £5 for sponsorship pack. Box 0650.

DISABLED STUDENT needs £300 desperately. Girobank 72-60-03 85703082. THANKYOU!

CANCER HAS TAKEN WIFE and left me with daughter and debts. NATWEST 522130, 03328376.

SPONSOR DEFAULTED, Cycling Club £850.00 short. Donations/potential sponsors? Box 0151, 20.74.09 108 656 48.

FEMALE APPLIANCE ENGINEER needs £5,000 for business premises before landlord sells elsewhere please! HALIFAX 11-07-99. 00424414.

STRUGGLING WRITER needs funds to finance graphic novel publication. MIDLAND 40-02-40 51135996. SAE PO Box 2744, London E17 7RB.

MATHS STUDENT ex-Navy, on the game, needs £10,000 to get back on feet. Will repay to EYE NEED. Thanks. 30-98-75, 2196686.

HELP PRISONERS in Asia – 20-90-69 20878596.

£13K REQUIRED to fund Masters in Law at Cambridge. Tel: 0958 45-1234.

DOES ANYONE CARE? Mature student desperately needs £9,000 to finish "I.T." Course in programming and systems analysis. Any help to advance me from the rut I'm in. MIDLAND 40-25-34 Account 82655039.

WOMAN TRAPPED in man's body, requires £3000 for Sex Change. Desperate: BARCLAYS 20-44-22 30194433.

DOCTOR SEEKS £30,000. Escaping carnage of General Practice for new career. Interest free loan considered. Box 0251.

DESPERATE FATHER needs to support children. Please help 16-15-21, 11433555.

DESPERATE FATHER, disabled wife, four children, three jobs, still sinking fast. Repossession imminent. Needs £18,000 – any amount gratefully received. Thanks. Nationwide 07-01-16, 30926300.

LONE PARENT too knackered for workfare. Destitute. Please help NatWest 60-02-05, 50844482.

DESPERATE MOTHER needs £5,000 to clear debts and send son to university. All donations gratefully received. Barclays 20-11-74 80796794.

DESPERATE, two young Britons in Turkish Jail face further 18 months if GBP1,200 not found for fines. All donations acknowledged. Cheques: 'ANGLIKAN KILISESI', MBE 126, Levent 80600, Istanbul, Turkey.

ROKPA TRUST – Reg. Charity, Kettering Branch. £20,000 buys Meditation Centre. Barclays 20-45-77, A/c 60419141.

DESPERATELY SEEKING DOLLARS. All donations towards unpaid NY museum summer internship greatly appreciated. NatWest 60-30-06 39712745.

BANKRUPT MEDICAL STUDENT huge debts, need £7,000 desperately. LLOYDS 30-92-82 1579780. THANKYOU.

HELP PLEASE – disabled mature student, two children, now desperate. Anything gratefully accepted. Box 0451.

I NEED £2,500 for expert medical report to support toxic poisoning case against NHS Trust. Legal Aid discharged following recent policy changes but will support with medical evidence. Box 0551.

EYE MOVES

FRIENDLY RELIABLE removals – MOVING EXPERIENCE – 0171 483 2501.

MOVING STUFF – nationwide. 0171 622 0511.

EYE FINANCE

ESTABLISHED COMPOSER and choreographer. Have £100,000 for contemporary ballet. Ten interested theatres nationwide, education projects involving different community groups in each town. NEED another £100,000. Any sponsorship welcome. CAPITAL ARTS – 0171 704 0077.

£15,000 LOAN REQUIRED to consolidate and improve cashflow. Supported by guarantees and insurance for secure and higher return than bank savings. 0181 674 2849 (fax).

EYE TECH

WHY BE BGH27.HQ@some #*%$.co.uk when you can be john@fulham.co.uk? London e-Mail address: http://www.anyplace.co.uk

SAVE ££££'s! Refill you own LASER PRINTER CARTRIDGES. Easy DIY kits – cheap! For free catalogue, FREEPHONE 0800 376 9922 (24hrs).

COMPUTER TROUBLE? Let a genuine PC expert help you with ADVICE, INSTALLATION, SETUP, PROGRAMMING AND TROUBLE-SHOOTING – and save yourself some big headaches. Call TOBY on 0171 229 3001 for friendly, professional advice.

EYE BUYS

896 EYES from 4 onwards, plus 79 duplicates plus 8 CHRISTMAS RECORDS. Offers – 01749 812826.

EYES 1964-1968 – 01745 550326.

VIRTUALLY COMPLETE SET issue 5 to present. 0171 223 6296.

EYES – 678 ISSUES. Offers: 01252 514693.

EYE CARE

LOSE WEIGHT QUICKLY, two fantastic diets only £7.00. Cheques to: XPOSE, PO Box 1761, YATE, Bristol, BS17 6BB.

ERECTION CORRECTION
for treatment of impotence etc.,
call
VIR CLINICS
on 0800 163861
(featured in Sunday Mirror).

PROSTATE PROBLEMS? Try PROSLAN – all herbal plant derivatives. 01909 770841.

WEIGHT PROBLEM? Try LIPOLEAN – all herbal plant derivatives. 01909 770841.

NEED MORE ENERGY? Try FORMULA POWER – all herbal plant derivatives. 01909 770841.

CONSULTANT HYPNOTHERAPIST, Harley Street. Stress, panic attacks, eating disorders, confidence, sexual problems, smoking, etc. Telephone: JESSICA RICHARDS – 0171 935 0023.

EYE CONTACT

ADI DA – Desperately seeking former Da devotees to advise worried family/friends of smitten teenager. Box 0751.

MEET GIRLS from Scandinavia and worldwide. Free details: WWC Box 78/p, S-42422 ANGERED, Sweden.

THE THAI CONNECTION – established 9 years. Over 400 marriages. WAIA approved. Free colour brochure – 01582 481725.

FREE MAGAZINE – Clubs, contacts and parties. Call now: 01784 246788 ext 649.

PLUMP PARTNERS – National Dating Agency. If you are plump or prefer a plump partner – ring 01352 715909.

FIND HER IN RUSSIA.
Correspondence/Holidays.
CLUB RUSSIA, Bangor, LL57 2HF.
Tel: 01248 355640.
Fax: 01248 371711.

ATTACHED? Seeking romance? LOVING LINKS is Europe's leading quality discreet dating service. Call DAVID for a friendly chat on 0181 962 6300/0171460 7486. Featured on TV, Radio and National/Intl Press. www.lovinglinks.co.uk

SINGLES PARTIES – Saturdays. PARTYZONE. S.a.e. Box 24405, London W5 5ZE. 0181 930 5296.

ADDITIONS – nationwide newsletter – Attached? Yet need a friend? – 0181 905 3304, 0181 958 9657 – total discretion assured. Featured on ITV, American TV, BBC, Radios 4/5. Established 1992.

CONTACT MAG for adults: over 900 photos. APPROVAL copy from: MATCHMAKER, (S.76), Chorley, PR7 4BSS. Or ring: 01257 480155 (24 hours).

HEDONISM – parties, clubnights, holidays. Decadent, uninhibited, exhibitionist, fun-loving party animals. Singles, couples. S.a.e. PO Box 153, Greenford, UB6 8LY. 0181 575 2052.

FILIPINO ORIENTAL ANGLO Social Club. UK introductions/parties/events. Martin/Marlene – 01493 308514 /300063.

PERSON TO PERSON
best singles magazine for
friends/partners,
U.K. or overseas.
Free details
(Dept PE/8) P.O. Box 4,
Goring-on-Thames,
RG8 9DN.

EVENTS/CONTACTS/PARTIES for broadminded, uninhibited singles and couples. CLUB APHRODITE – PO Box 2097 Luton, LU3 2HR. Telephone: 01582 750947.

BEAUTIFUL THAI LADIES – colour brochure SIAM INTRODUCTIONS – 01689 860880.

YOUNG LADIES worldwide seeks penpals, friends, lifemates. Free details, photos! HERMES, Box 610188/S, 10922 Berlin, Germany. Fax: 0049 30 25299775.

ASIAN/EUROPEAN marriage – introduction guaranteed. SUMAN MARRIAGE BUREAU, established 1972. Telephone 0181 574 4867.

AstroFree – 0500 820283.

MARGARET'S SPECIAL Pen Club – make new friends today UK & overseas. SAE details: PO Box 1, Prestwick, Ayrshire KA9 1RJ. Est. 1986.

EYE LOVE

SUCCESSFUL MID-TO-LATE 50s man (in good nick) seeks slim woman for fun (sex, red wine) and company. Box 3851.

SPARKLING, CURVACEOUS divorcee, young 40s, seeks proof of attractive, civilised, SINGLE, available men out there somewhere? London/M4/M40. Photo please. Box 0851

GLOBETROTTING CHAP looking to land. Attractive, adventurous, solvent and without baggage, 35 – seeks female soulmate 24-35. London/SE. Box 0951.

INTELLIGENT, CARING student, seeks sensitive young man for friendship/romance. Passionate about politics, classical music, travel and good conversation. Box 1051.

WHOLEHEARTED thirtysomething man seeks unattached woman 25-45 in Berkshire/Hampshire area for dining-out, concerts, etc. Friends first and maybe more. No girlies or desperate spinnies please. Box 1151.

DISCREET, CONSIDERATE and reliable occasional partner available for unfulfilled lady 35-50. Photograph ensures reply. Box 1251.

SENSUOUS, CARING gentleman (married but passion gone) seeks petite, slim, blond lady age 27 to 37 for pleasurable afternoons in London. I am an affluent 49 year old who enjoys ballet, fashion, La Perla leather and the countryside. Photo and phone number appreciated. Box 1351.

INTELLIGENT, GENTLE, tied guy, 40 seeks lady for lunchtime liaisons. Putney/S.London. Box 1451.

OVERSEAS RESIDENT athletic, professional male, 40ish, visiting London regularly, seeks female (attached or unattached) for fun and friendship. Box 1551.

HUSBAND WANTED by beautiful mother of two. You are very financially secure. I have a lot to offer. Box 1651.

I'M M – 40, FIT and frustratingly attached. I would never place this ad, and you would normally never reply to one, but are tempted all the same. You are 30-45, attractive, and looking for a someone to bring a sparkle to your eye, and fire to your heart. I am too, so take a chance. London is an hour away, are you? Box 1751.

PROFESSIONAL MALE, 46, slim non-smoker, married, living Trent/Sussex, seeks lady in similar situation for discrete daytime meetings. Box 1851.

CHRISTIAN LADY, 56, divorced, non-smoker, own house and car, enjoys Blackadder, Fry & Laurie, Red Dwarf and Fawlty Towers, intelligent, professional, optimistic, caring, sensuous – seeks solvent, sensitive, graduate gentleman for monogamous relationship. Box 1951.

ATTRACTIVE, INTERESTING, fun man, late 30s, attached, seeks woman for light hearted affair. Box 2051.

BODACIOUS, BUXOM British blonde female desires British boy toy in every port. Photos appreciated. Write: Suite E-102, PO Box 7191, RIYADH 11462, Saudi Arabia.

COUTH BUSINESS TYPE, mid 30s, fit size L, attached but bored, often in London, WLTM similarly attached but bored couth lady (25-45ish) for discrete mutual whine about relationships (10 mins. max) then dinner and a chat about what next, if anything, Uncouth aspirations considered. Please reply with recent photo and letter. London. Box 2151.

ISIS SEEKS OSIRIS for trip to Great Pyramid. London. Box 2251.

GRADUATE, SINGLE EX-ARMY officer, 36 but looks 28, affluent, well-travelled, fit, multilingual, top SOH, Bath based, seeks slim, Latin babe, 20-30, uninhibited with GSOH to wriggle and giggle in passenger seat of beautiful sports car. Photo assures reply. Box 2351.

SHY LAD (39) seeks assured lady (50+) in sheer stockings for discrete liaisons. ALAWP. W. Yorks. Box 2651.

ATTRACTIVE REBEL business man, late 30s, non-smoking, vegetarian, South E. Hants, seeks stable, switched-on single lady to share tipi at Glastonbury Festival. Photo and phone number to Box 2451.

WHICH 8 RECORDS would you take to the desert island? Cultured, intelligent, sensual woman, currently shipwrecked in East Anglia, wants to compare musical tastes with likeminded man. Box 2551.

FORTHRIGHT BLONDE, 51, slim, petite even, difficult perhaps, affectionate with GSOH wants unattached, attractive professional man of similar age or less for company and fun? Salisbury/Bath area. Box 2751.

AIR HOSTESS and former ballet dancer 42, slim, attractive brunette, kind personality workaholic with history of wildly unsuitable partners, seeks good looking romantic professional man 38-45 with long term in mind. London/Brighton area. Interested in salsa a help. Photo please! Box 2851.

Replying to a PRIVATE EYE Box Number? Address your reply like this

Box No.....
PRIVATE EYE
3 ST PETER'S STREET
LONDON N1 8JD

TALL, ATTRACTIVE, humorous man, 40, inescapably married seeks good-natured woman for affectionate time-out. Yorks. Box 2951.

ANYONE WANT a middle-aged mistress? Suit occasional visitor to London seeking extra-marital nookie and cherishing in return for laughter and/or lunch. Box 3051.

PERMANENTLY GOOD-LOOKING, spasmodically amusing writer, 40s, needs wife to bear his children, and mistress to bear with his depravities. Ideally those should be the same person. Have you all virtues, some vice, wit, wisdom and an kink or two? This man needs help! Box 3151.

TALL, HANDSOME successful London man (married, 50) seeks lovely lady friend and lover. Box 3251.

PROFESSIONAL MALE, 38, 6', seeks mature woman 45-60 for passion. Photo ensures reply. Box 3351.

SWEET AND BEAUTIFUL Japanese girl, 25, petite, lovely face and figure, shy but passionate, likes classical music, wants to meet successful Englishman, 25-35, view marriage. Box 3451.

MOSTLY HONEST Newcastle man, 34, permanent member of the Relationships For The Terrified Club, seeks quiet, funny, normal woman. Box 3551.

ATTRACTIVE DIVORCEE seeks loving companion, possibly life. I love the arts, animals (horses and hunting especially), good living. I hate opera, cycling and cards. Spiritual awareness increasingly important and a good laugh. One super son aged 13. Glos. Box 3651.

AMERICAN LADY – or lady that likes the USA – sought by humorous, successful generous modern 33 y.o. gentleman. Added bonus if you like a new Beetle and SLK. Midlands/London or Portsmouth area preferred, although area and age immaterial. Letter with photo and phone number ensures swift reply. Please write Box 3751.

MALE ARTIST 30, seeks to broaden social circle – theatre, cinema, pubs. London. Box 3050.

IRISH MALE MID 40 seeks attractive, good-looking female who likes to travel and has interest in equine world, for sincere relationship. Ladies, you will not be disappointed. Please reply with photo and phone number. Box 1849.

EYE DRINK

PERSONALISED WINE/CHAMPAGNE – ideal corporate/individual – from £5.95. SUPERB! 01745 360400.

PERSONALISED CHAMPAGNE
with your unique message
delivered NextDay
nationwide
£25.
0181 675 9494.

PERSONALISED BEER – your message printed on the label. £13.90 – 4 bottles, PRESENTATION BOXED, delivered – 01505 850267.

EYE JOIN

ANTI-NAZI LEAGUE – recorded message 0891 633436. Calls cost £1 maximum.

PETER COOK APPRECIATION Society. It's never too early to join the millions of other one-legged Tarzans swinging through the jungly tendrils. Four fagazines a year and an EL WHISTY BADGE for your lincloth, all for an uncivilised £6. P.C.A.S., 15 Temple Dwellings, Temple Street, Bethnal Green, London E2 6QG.

EYE PROTECT

DEFENDER AEROSOL
sprays robbers
attackers with
VIVID GREEN STAIN
enabling the authorities
to track and identify offenders.
Handy pocket or handbag-sized.
Cheques/POs £19.99 + £2.95 p&p.
DEFENDER PARTNERS UK,
113-115 George Lane,
London E18 1AB.
0973 289772.

PROTECTION OFFICERS
Kidnap Prevention,
Hostage Rescue,
Surveillance,
Training, or just advice.
We can help.
"SENATOR"
International Service.
07044 054179.

EYE HOME HUNT

FINE RESIDENCE in 0171 area for the cost of a peppercorn, or – at a stretch – house work/gardening. Thomas 0171 261 0447.

EYE WORK

VERY WELL TRAVELLED I.T. literate Masters graduate determined to work for diplomatic service. Can you help? Kevin.omalley@thelads.com

MEDICAL STUDENT desperately needs £4000 to continue studies. Anything considered. Thanks. Box 0351.

QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANT – commercially aware, very organised, early 30's, seeks position outside profession. E-mail: dmus104@compuserve.com. Box 0651.

EYE JOBS

WORK AS A TV/FILM EXTRA – £7.50/S.A.E. for information pack. S.F. Uttley, PO Box 153, Croydon, Surrey, CR9 3SF.

EYE DRIVE

A MORRIS MINOR/TRAVELLER from £29 daily – £149 weekly. Free delivery. 0171 681 8280.

RENT-A-DENT self-drive car hire from £15 daily, £95 weekly – 0181 952 8456.

PRIVATE EYE SMALLS

CLASSIFIED LINAGE ADVERTISEMENTS

£1.75 PER WORD VAT inclusive
BUSINESS RATE £2.25 PER WORD VAT inclusive

(15 word minimum)
BORDERING £10 EXTRA
Box number £8 (non-business advertisers only)
Cheques payable to Madison Bell Ltd
DICTATE YOUR AD WITH CREDIT/DEBIT CARD
OR RING WITH QUERIES 0171 354 5386
OR FAX 0171 359 3085
E-mail: privateeye@madibell.demon.co.uk
MAIL YOUR AD OR BOX NUMBER REPLY TO:
PRIVATE EYE, 3 ST PETER'S STREET, LONDON N1 8JD

NAME, ADDRESS & TEL NO:
.....
.....
.....
.....

Send your advertisement with cheque/postal orders or ACCESS, VISA, SWITCH number. Do not send cash.
NUMBER: .....
EXPIRY DATE: .....
ISSUE NUMBER (SWITCH): .....

☐ **BOX NUMBER REQUIRED** **CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET**

The Open University

2 year diplomas

•Sharpen your career skills
•Make more of your personal interests

The Open University offers a fast-track qualification through its new diploma programme. There are 19 diplomas you can study for career or personal development. All can count towards a university degree and, in most cases, you need no previous qualifications.

Diplomas can usually be completed in 2 years, although you can take longer if you wish.

OU supported open learning

With the Open University, you can fit your study around the needs of your career and family. You learn at home - or wherever is convenient - at times that suit you best. And if you move home anywhere within the EU, your course can go with you!

- You learn through a unique and successful method of study known as 'OU supported open learning' using specially written textbooks, audio/video programmes and for some courses computer software or home kits.
- You are assigned a personal tutor - a subject specialist - who will guide you through your studies.
- You can also contact one of 13 Regional Centres for help and advice.

Proven and respected

In 1997, the Open University ranked in the top ten among universities for the number of courses rated as 'excellent'. As pioneers of open learning, we're also leading the way in new technology - over 40,000 students are linked to the University and each other via the Internet.

We are also recognised by employers - more than 24,000 employers sponsor OU students, including Ford, Hewlett-Packard, Barclays Bank, Standard Life and Lucas.

Get in touch today!

For full details of OU diploma courses fill in the coupon or phone NOW.

Choose your diploma subject

Most diplomas offer a choice of course options - so you can tailor your qualification to career needs and interests. You'll find full details of all our courses, diplomas and undergraduate degrees in our 1998 brochure.

Maths, Computing and Technology
- Computing
- Information technology
- Mathematics

Modern Languages
- French
- German

Arts
- Music
- Classical studies
- European humanities

Management
- Professional diploma

Social Sciences
- Geography
- Economics
- Health and social welfare
- Psychology
- Applied social sciences
- Modern social history research
- Gender and development

Environment
- Environment and development
- Pollution control
- Geography and environment

To: The Open University, PO Box 625, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA.
Please send me your brochure 'Courses, Diplomas and Degrees'.
I have contacted the OU before. Yes/No

Title Initials Surname U98GS

Address

Postcode

Tel Date of birth 19

Phone our Hotline (24 hours)
0870 9000 301

The Open University opens minds, opens doors.

9 770032 888044 21>

Published by Pressdram Ltd, 6 Carlisle St, London W1. 0171-437 4017. Printed by East End Offset Ltd, Empson St, London E3 3LT. Distributed by P.E. Distribution, Mortimer Hse, 230/236 Lavender Hill, London SW11. 0171-223 9971